**Alfred James Bell**

Alfred James Bell, born in Poplar in 1889, was the son of Allan and Mary Ann Bell in a family of five children, two of whom died during childhood. Both Alfred and his father were employed as railway clerks and in 1911 the family was living at 157 Malmesbury Road in Bow, London.

Alfred enlisted in Whitehall, London on 15 November 1915 at the age of 26. By that time he had moved to Hertfordshire, had married and was living with his wife at 53 Rudolph Road, Bushey. He served as Sergeant Major WR/501652 with Inland Water Transport, Royal Engineers. He died on 24 February 1919, aged 29 and was buried in Bushey churchyard, where he is commemorated on a Commonwealth Grave Commission gravestone. His wife, Lilian Edith Bell, later moved to 13 Park Road, Bushey.

He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), a [silver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver) medal given for distinguished service or for gallantry, principally to [non-commissioned officers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-commissioned_officers).

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Meritorious_Service_Medal_and_reverse.jpg)

[](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=44642347&PIpi=23648959)