

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Frederick Harold Butler

Died 1<sup>st</sup> January 1916 aged 21

Frederick Butler was the son of the Headmaster of Church Stretton school. He was born on the 29th November 1895 in to Frederick and Ellen Butler, the youngest of four children and the only son. He lived with his parents and sisters, Ellen, Nora and Erica, at the schoolhouse on Church Road.



Image © Ancestry.com. UK, *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919*

Frederick was commemorated with a very full biography in Duvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919 and I think I can do little better than quote it here.

“Frederick was educated at his father's school, St Lawrence Endowed School Church Stretton and afterwards by the Rev Charles Woolley MA. He gained a Choir Scholarship at Queen's College Oxford, and left his leadership of the choir in his native town for a year's residence at the University. After a year and a half under the Rev C. J. Bryant B.A Church Stretton, he entered for Boy Clerkships, and being successful was appointed to assist under Mr Heron-Maxwell and Sir Walter Howell, at the Board of Trade. In 1911 he was appointed to a clerkship in The United Counties Bank, Evesham, where he entered into the life of the town, being a member of the choir at All Saints and of the Rowing, Tennis, Hockey and Dramatic Clubs. Early 1914 he was sent to Broad Street Branch Birmingham, and joined the Warwickshire Yeomanry. On the outbreak of war he was attached to the Brigadier's Staff as a signaller and Despatch Rider, being at various stations in Norfolk during the Zeppelin raids. When waiting for his promotion he took the part of Acting Scout Master at Church Stretton. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1915 he was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to the 6<sup>th</sup> City of London Rifles, and was sent to the front in October, spending his 21<sup>st</sup>

birthday there, and Christmas Day and New Year's Eve in the firing line, within a few yards of the enemy. He was killed in action in France 1st January 1916. The Chaplain wrote: "Your son was standing with a group of men in the trenches when a mortar struck the trench and the whole group was struck and killed. Your son was killed instantly, and cannot have suffered pain of any kind whatever. He was buried the same night just behind the trench, and I myself conducted the service. The spot is marked by a cross and its exact position most carefully noted, so that it can easily be found after the war. Your boy was a most promising young officer, and we are all deeply grieved at his loss"

([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). UK, *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919*)

In fact, Frederick is commemorated on the Loos Memorial in the Pas de Calais. This Memorial, designed by Herbert Baker, forms the back and sides of the Dud Corner Cemetery and his name is amongst the 20654 casualties remembered here.



(Image courtesy of [https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loos\\_Memorial](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loos_Memorial))

Frederick's mother, Ellen, had sadly died in 1912, aged only 46. But Frederick senior continued as the Schoolmaster. On his retirement he moved to Cartref, Watling Street where he lived with his blind daughter, Ellen. He continued his work as the Church Organist. He died in 1951 aged 85.

#### Sources

Ancestry.com. UK, *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-24*. CD-ROM. United Kingdom: Navy & Military Press Ltd.

Census and other records courtesy of Ancestry.com  
[https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loos\\_Memorial](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loos_Memorial)