

Marcus Burgh Rochfort

Marcus Burgh Rochfort, sixth child and second son of Marcus Gustavus Rochfort, schoolmaster, and his wife Mary Ann (née Hodges), was born on 28th January 1837 and baptised on 18th June of that year, at St John's, Calcutta. I do not know where or when, but by the late 1860s he had married. His wife was Mary Elizabeth Greenfield, one of the children of John and Maria Spurgeon Greenfield. She had been born in Goruckpore on 23rd July 1850 and baptised just over two months later at Agra on 29th September. A son was born to the couple on 6th November 1869 but it was a premature birth and the baby did not survive. Marcus and Mary then had four daughters born between 1871 and 1876 before they relocated to England where another daughter was born in 1878. A no doubt longed for son was born in 1880, and the whole family was living at 2 Chelleston Villas, Camberwell, for the 1881 census.¹

Marcus B Rochfort	Head	M	44	Retired Police Officer	Calcutta, India
Mary E Rochfort	Wife	M	30		Goruckpore, India
Mary M Rochfort	Daur		10		Howrah, India
Nellie K Rochfort	Daur		8		Howrah, India
Norah G Rochfort	Daur		6		Howrah, India
Mabel B Rochfort	Daur		4		Hooghly, India
Alice E Rochfort	Daur		3		Dulwich, Surrey
Richard A Rochfort	Son		4 mos		Dulwich, Surrey
Arthur J Greenfield	Visitor	U	29	Tutor	Goruckpore, India
Ram Putee	Serv	W	45	Nurse Domestic	India
Emma Steele	Serv	U	23	Servant Domestic	Andover, Hants

The visitor was Mary Rochfort's brother Arthur James Greenfield. Also included was 45 year old widow Ram Putee who was listed as nurse – and may have been the children's ayah in India. Ten years later, by which time the family had moved to Roslyn, Lewisham, and had been increased by the birth of another son – Arthur Rochfort, by then 6 years old. This time Marcus is listed as a mining engineer. Someone has helpfully written a comment on the census transcript noting that The Fir, an establishment two doors away from the Rochfort residence, was an institution for inebriate ladies!²

Marcus B Rochfort	Head	M	54	Mining Engineer CS	Bengal, India
Mary E Rochfort	Wife	M	40		Goruckpore, India
Mary M Rochfort	Daur	S	20		Bengal, India
Nellie K Rochfort	Daur		18		Bengal, India
Norah G Rochfort	Daur		16		Bengal, India
Mabel B Rochfort	Daur		14	Scholar	Hooghly, India
Alice E Rochfort	Daur		12	Scholar	Camberwell, Dulwich
Richard A Rochfort	Son		10		Camberwell, Dulwich
Arthur Rochfort	Son		6		Camberwell, Dulwich
Janet Sheldon	Gov	S	25	Governess	Wheatley, Oxon
Mary J Challen	Serv	S	24	Servant Domestic	Amberley
Charles Graham	Vis	S	23		Bankipore, Bengal

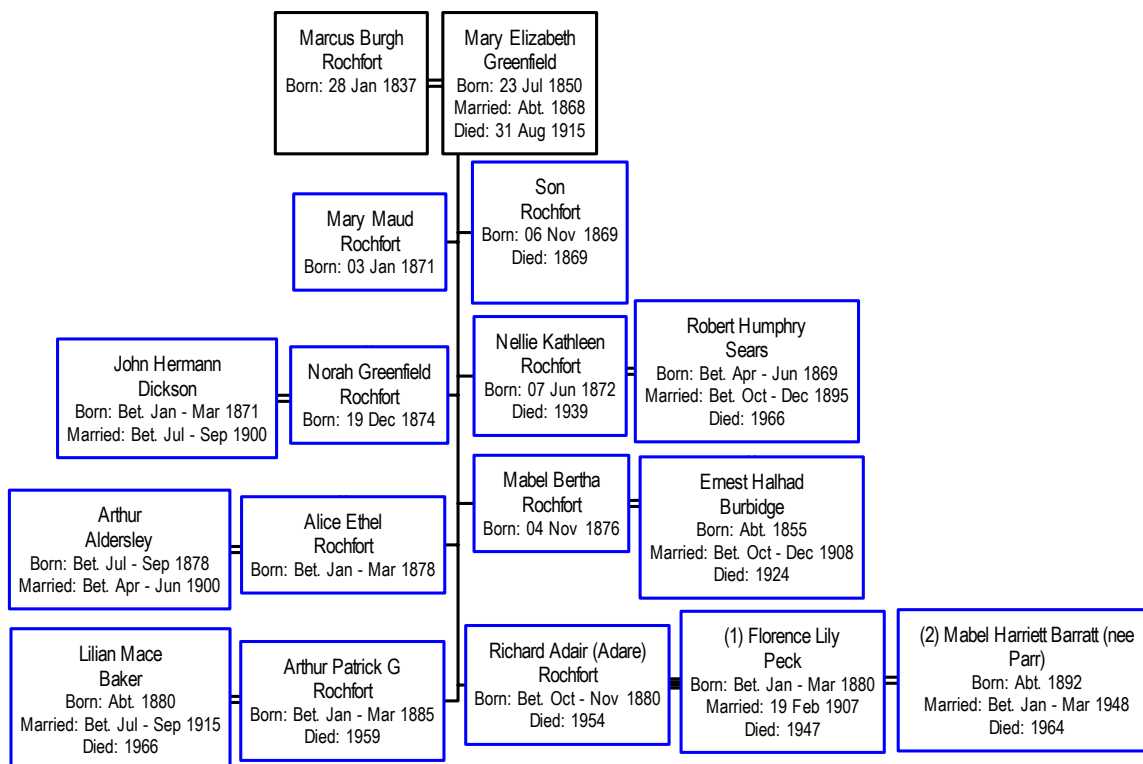
It is a much diminished household for the 1901 census (with the surname transcribed as Rockford) and now living at 113 Venner Road, Beckenham, Kent, including the absence of Marcus Rochfort. I have not found a death registration for Marcus at this stage. Also absent from the household were daughters Nellie, Norah, and Alice, and son Richard. The niece and nephew were the children of Marcus Rochfort's niece Alice Isabel Mclead Jary (née Rochfort and soon to be Mrs Nixey) and Edgar Percival Jary.³

Mary E Rochfort	Head	W	50	Living on own means	Goruckpore, India
Mary M Rochfort	Daur	S	30		Howrah, India
Mabel B Rochfort	Daur	S	24		Hooghly, India
Arthur P G Rochfort	Son	S	16		Dulwich, London
Violet K Percival	Niece	S	7		Bognor, Sussex
Edgar Percival	Nephew	S	5		Kensington, London

The final census record we have for Mary Elizabeth Rochfort finds her, on 2nd April 1911, at 84 Venner Road, Sydenham. The other members of her household were her eldest daughter, 40 year old Mary Maud Rochfort, now a nursery governess, and a six year old granddaughter, Ivy Mabel Dickson. Mary died four years later at

Bournemouth and probate on her estate was granted to her eldest daughter. ⁴

ROCHFORD Mary Elizabeth of 84 Venner-road Sydenham Kent widow died 31 August 1915 at New Milton near Bournemouth Probate London 25 September to Mary Maud Rochfort spinster. Effects £174.



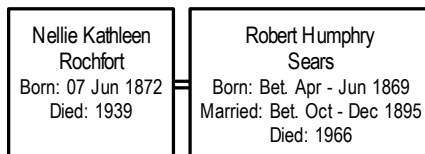
Mary Maud Rochfort

The eldest child of Marcus and Mary was born at Howrah on 3rd January 1871 and baptised there on the 10th April 1871. It was she who was one of the witnesses for her cousin Violet Rochfort's marriage. Mary Maud Rochfort was in her early forties when her mother died and I do not know if she married after the death of her mother – I have found nothing for her after the 1911 census.⁵



Nellie Kathleen Rochfort

Born at Howrah on 7th June 1872 and baptised there three weeks later on 30th June, the first of the Rochfort offspring to marry was Nellie Kathleen Rochfort and her marriage to Robert Humphry Sears was registered at Lewisham for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1895. And yes, we have come across this Robert Humphry Sears before. He was the two year old Robert H Sears, son of Robert Humphry and Mary Ann Sears (née Smith) at home with his family, and maternal grandmother at the Priory, Taunton, for the 1871 census, and Nellie's first cousin once removed.⁶



I found no further census records for Robert and Nellie, the reason being that they probably went 'out East' shortly after their wedding. However I have found them returning to England on 19th May 1918. They had embarked at Colombo on the Bibby Line vessel 'Lancashire'. Robert, aged 49, was a district engineer and Nellie was his 25 year old wife. Nellie died in 1939 and Robert in 1966, both deaths being registered the New Forest district. (See also the previous section for Robert Humphry Sears).⁷



Norah Greenfield Rochfort

Norah Greenfield Rochfort was born and baptised at Howrah on 19th December 1874 and as both events occurred on the same day I wonder if Norah was a sickly baby? If so, she obviously rallied. She married John Hermann Dickson, with the event being registered at Westhampnett, Sussex, for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1900.⁸

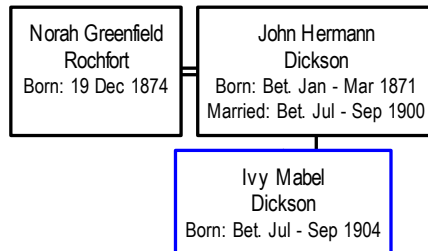
John had been born in early 1871 and baptised on 14th February 1871 in the Parish of St Luke's, New Kentish Town. His parents were recorded as William and Mary Anne Dickson of Belsize Park, and his father's calling was listed as 'gentleman' although William had been a farmer when he married Mary Ann Cahlmann at the St Pancras Parish Church, in March 1857. For his first census two month old John Dickson was at home with his parents at 170 Belsize Road, Hampstead.⁹

William Dickson	Head	M	60	Surveyor and Land Agent	Scotland
Mary Ann Dickson	Wife	M	38		Soho, Middlesex
Julius C R Dickson	Son		6		Hampstead, Middlesex
John H Dickson	Son		2		Hampstead, Middlesex
Annie Rose	Gov	U	35	Governess	Hitchin, Hertfordshire
Hannah Whent	Serv	U	29	Cook Dom Servant	Bradwell, Essex
Sarah Powles	Serv	U	29	Housemaid Dom Servant	Denton, Norfolk
Julius Kaltenthaler	Boarder	U	38	Clerk	Germany

William Dickson had died before 24th May 1879 because on that day widow Mary Anne Dickson married the man who had been boarding in her house, Julius Matthew Kaltenthaler, at St Luke's, Kentish Town. The marriage record shows that Julius Kaltenthaler had been born in Mannheim. In fact he may never have left his lodgings because when the 1881 census was conducted Julius, clerk to seed crushers and now the head of the household, and Mary Anne, together with step son John Dickson were still at 170 Belsize Road. John's mother died at home at the age of 57 on 14th October 1890 and she left her modest estate of £144 16s in the hands of her husband Julius. It would have been a subdued household when the 1891 census was conducted, which found Julius and his step-son John still living at Belsize Road. By this time John had embarked on a career on the stage – he was now an actor.¹⁰

John Dickson presumably made enough money to live on in his chosen profession for actor was still his occupation ten years later. He (with his name given as Dixon), together with an actress Alice Gilbert, and Jeanne and Auguste Archard, respectively a costumière and an electrician, were in lodgings in Taylor Street, Preston, for the 1901 census. All four may have been part of a touring group which had landed a gig in Preston. For the same census we find Norah Dixon [sic] at Deptford, boarding together with a fellow aspiring thespian Jane Walsh, with a Jones family. So it was more than likely that John and Norah had met through their shared interest and profession, and had found time between engagements found time to get married in 1900. But their careers also meant that they spent time apart.¹¹

Their peripatetic lifestyle is no doubt the reason why their daughter Ivy Mabel Dickson was staying with her grandmother, Mary Rochfort, for the 1911 census. For the same census, John Hermann Dickson and Nora Greenfield Dickson were lodging at 151 Greenwich Road, Greenwich. Nora was still described as an actress and John was by this time an advertising agent – from which I assume he was an aspiring impresario and his wife's agent. Yet again we find members of this generation of Rochforts connected with the theatre. And this is the end of trail for Norah and John, and also Ivy Mabel Dickson.¹²

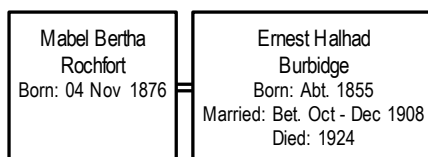


Mabel Bertha Rochfort

By the time Mabel was born her family was living at Chinsurah and it was there that she arrived on 4th November 1876 and was subsequently baptised on the last day of that year. She was still at home with her mother Mary for the 1901 census and it was not until 1908 that she married. Her husband was Ernest Halhad Burbidge and their marriage was registered at Richmond, Surrey, for the Oct-Dec quarter. Ernest had been born about 1855 in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and by 1881 had qualified as a schoolmaster and was counted in the census of that year as a 1st BA London School Master, and an Assistant Teacher at the Bedford County School. I am not sure where he was for the next two census years, but he and Mabel were living at 101 Castelnau, Barnes, in the district of Richmond, for the 1911 census. I imagine that this group of people was living in a residence associated with the school in which they taught.¹³

Burbidge, Ernest Halhad	Head	Mar		M	54	Schoolmaster	Glasgow, Lanark
Burbidge, Mabel	Wife	Mar	2	F	34	School Mistress	R W Prov, India
Turnell, Reginald Leaf	Asst	Sing		M	20	Assist School Master	Kirkstall, Yorks
Jones, Arnold Pierce	Asst	Sing		M	22	Assist School Master	Trawsfynydd, Merioneth
Espall, Emma Frances	Serv	Wid		F	50	Domestic Servant	Twyford, Leicester

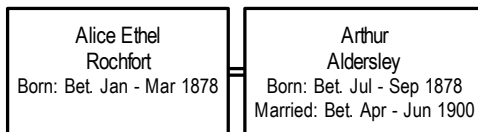
Ernest was 67 when he died and his death was registered at Richmond (Surrey) in 1924. I am not sure where or when Mabel died.¹⁴



Alice Ethel Rochfort

Alice Ethel or Ethel Alice was the first of the children of Marcus and Mary Rochfort to be born in England. Her birth was registered for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1878 at Camberwell. And she is another daughter who took to the stage. As Ethel Alice, her marriage to Arthur Aldersley was registered at Maidenhead for the Apr-Jun quarter of 1900. Arthur was born in Lambeth in 1875 to Edward Aldersley and his wife Ellen. According to the 1881 census his father was a grocer's assistant and the family was then living at 16 Selbourne Road, Camberwell.¹⁵

One year after their marriage Arthur and Ethel were listed in the 1901 census as boarders in a lodging house run by a Mary Smith at Havelock Terrace in Southampton. The income from lodgers would have boosted the income her house painter husband would have contributed to the family budget. Arthur's profession was recorded as a vocalist/comedian and that of his wife Ethel as vocalist/actress. And that is all I have found out about the couple.¹⁶



Richard Adair Rochfort

The full name of the first son of Marcus and Mary Rochfort (née Greenfield) was Richard Adair (alternatively spelt Adare) Rochfort. He was born after the family had moved from India to England and his birth was registered at Camberwell for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1880. He was at home for the 1881 and 1891 census collections but he has not been located in the 1901 census.

However, according to the BMD records, Richard married the same person twice, with registrations at Lewisham in 1907 and Farnham in 1909, for both of which there is one name in common – Florence Lily Peck. I am not sure why two registrations were required, but the record for the first event in 1907 reveals that, following the calling of banns, on 19th February 1907 at Christ Church, Forest Hill, Richard Adair Rochfort, a 29 year old bachelor, a farmer by calling, and resident at 99 Perry Vale, Forest Hill, married Florence Lily Peck, a 27 year old spinster of

no calling and then living at 191 Como Road, Forest Hill. Richard's father, Marcus, was recorded as a mining engineer (deceased). Florence's father, George Robert Peck, was described as a horticulturist. A further check of the records shows that Florence Peck was one of the daughters of Robert George Peck and his wife Elizabeth, who registered her birth at Bromley for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1880. One year later the Peck family was living at the Manor House (Over Stables) at Chislehurst in Kent. Mr Peck was listed as a gardener.¹⁷

I have located a 1911 record for a Florence L Rochfort, a 29 year old married woman of private means, who had been born in Chislehurst, Kent, and who was visiting one Emma P Burton, at Albany Road, Fleet, in Hampshire. I have not located Richard in the 1911 census, but do have a record of his WWI medal card. He served with some distinction, being awarded the DSO and MC. There are two contact addresses on his medal card – one being 52 Cambridge Mansions, Battersea Park, and the other being c/- R.H. Sears, Esq, Shortlands, New Milton, Hampshire which would have been the address of his brother-in-law.¹⁸

The citation for his Distinguished Service Order reads as follows.¹⁹

Capt. Richard Adare ROCHFORD, MC., R. Warwicks, attd. 6th Bn., R. Berks Regt.

For conspicuous gallantry, devotion to duty and initiative during operations near POELCAPPELLE.

On the night of the 11/12th Octr. 1917 when the Bn, was moving up the line to its forming up position ready for the attack on the following morning, it was heavily engaged by the enemy with shells and gas. He perceiving that there was danger of the Bn. losing its way owing to the necessity of having to wear gas masks and the intense darkness of the night he placed himself at the head of the leading party and guided it along the correct route. It is certain but for this prompt action the Bn. would not have reached its forming up place in time.

During the operations on the morning of the 12th, owing to the heavy and difficult condition of the ground and the heavy shell, machine gun and rifle fire, the Bn. experienced great difficulty in pushing forward; he immediately went forward to ascertain the situation and encouraged the men by his example.

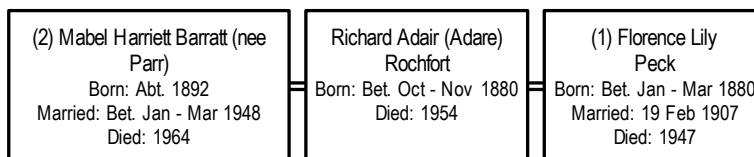
Although severely wounded while leading the men he remained with them for near two hours encouraging them in their work until through sheer exhaustion he was forced to desist. This Officer by his cheerful and inspiring personality and by the exceptional bravery of his conduct set a magnificent example to all ranks.

He was so badly wounded that his arm had to be amputated on his arrival at the dressing station.

He was given a similar 'wrap-up' in the Supplement to the London Gazette of 25th April 1918.²⁰

As far as I can tell Richard and Florence did not have any children. They may have enjoyed some happy years together but by 1937 there were clearly some marital problems because Richard Adare Rochfort was cited, together with a Mabel Harriett Barratt, as a respondent to a case which came before the Divorce Court in that year and for which the appellant was Harry Gethin George Barratt. Harry and Mabel (née Parr) had been married in Nottingham in 1916.

Florence Rochfort died at the age of 67 at Stoke Newington in 1947. The following year, as registered at Westminster for the Jan-Mar quarter, Richard A Rochfort, aged 67, married Mabel H Barratt. Their time together was short – the death of Richard A Rochfort was registered at Winchester in 1954. His widow survived him by ten years and her death at the age of 72 was registered at Eastbourne in 1964.²¹



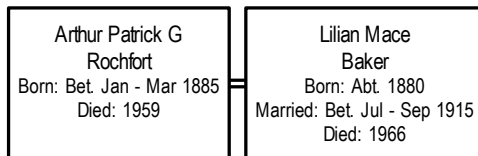
Arthur Patrick G Rochfort

The youngest of the children of Marcus Burgh Rochfort and his wife Mary Elizabeth (née Greenfield), and their second son, the birth of Arthur Patrick G Rochfort was registered at Camberwell for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1885. He was at home for the for his first census in 1891 and again for the 1901 census by then a 16 year old, but I have not found him in the 1911 census when he would have been 26 years old. He may well have been in India at this time. The next time we 'find' him is when he married. The marriage between Arthur P G Rochfort and Lilian M Baker was registered at Bosmere in Suffolk for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1915. The full name of the woman he married was Lilian Mace Baker, her middle name being that of her paternal grandfather, Joseph Mace. Her

parents, Charles Baker and Harriet (Harriot Banham) had married in Thetford in 1876 and some time thereafter lived in Newfoundland where Lilian was born around 1880. The Baker family was back in England for the 1901 census, living at the Vicarage, Ashburnham, Sussex, where Charles Baker was the local vicar. Ten years later he had moved to Norfolk, where both he and his wife had been born. The family was ensconced in the Rectory, Barking in the district of Bosmere for the 1911 census.²²

Baker, Charles	Head	Mar	M	60	Clerk in Holy Orders	S Lopham, Norfolk
Baker, Harriet	Wife	Mar	35	F	58	Methwold, Norfolk
Baker, Lilian Mace	Daur	Sing	F	31		Newfoundland, Resident
Choat, Lilian Jane	Asst	Sing	F	35	Cook	Barking, Norfolk
Brown, Ethel Kate	Serv	Sing	F	27	House Parlour Maid	Ipswich, Suffolk

Somehow Arthur and Lilian had met and courted, and at the respective ages of 30 and about 35, had married. I do not think there were any children of the marriage. Shortly after they wed the couple left England for Bombay, sailing from London on 3rd December 1915 on board the P&O ship Caledonia. The passenger manifest listed Arthur as a Traffic Superintendent. They must have made a trip back to England because on the 17th September 1920 they sailed from Liverpool aboard the Bibby Line ship Yorkshire. Their destination was Colombo and Arthur was listed as a District Traffic Officer. It is not until a shipping record of 1923, when Arthur and Lilian landed at London on the 8th November 1923, having sailed from Bombay on the P&O ship Mantua, that we learn with which branch of transport Arthur was involved. Arthur was recorded as a railway supervisor and he and Lilian gave as their proposed address the Barking Rectory, Needham Market, Norfolk. Arthur was only 38 when he made this journey, probably too young to retire, so he and Lilian may have spent more time in India before returning to England for good. Arthur was 73 when his death was registered at Lambeth in 1959. Lilian survived him by about seven years and her death, at the age of 87, was registered at Croydon in 1966.²³



Notes

- ¹ India Office Family History Search N/1/47 f.84; FIBIS Birth Announcements taken from East India Register Source Year 1838; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FIBIS The Times of India 23 Nov edition; RG11/677/16/p25.
- ² Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; RG12/523/90/pp35-36.
- ³ RG13/689/1327/p17.
- ⁴ RG14PN2813 RG78PN96 RD29 SD4 ED7 SN274; FreeBMD Marriage Index 1837-1915; England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941.
- ⁵ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947.
- ⁶ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FreeBMD Marriage Index 1837-1915.
- ⁷ UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960 BT26/648/13.
- ⁸ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FreeBMD Marriage Index 1837-1915.
- ⁹ London England Births and Baptisms 1813-1906; London England Marriages and Banns 1754-1921; RG19/197/8/p9.
- ¹⁰ London England Marriages and Banns 1754-1921; RG11/170/100/p9; FreeBMD Death Index 1837-1915; England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941; RG12/113/124/p29.
- ¹¹ RG13/3954/33/p8; RG13/534/90/p28.
- ¹² RG14PN2679 RG78PN91 RD28 SD4 ED11 SN58.
- ¹³ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FreeBMD Marriage Index 1837-1915; RG11/1620/74/p1; RG14PN3626 RG78PN136 RD41 SD2 ED21 SN29.
- ¹⁴ England & Wales Death Index 1916-2005.
- ¹⁵ FreeBMD Marriage Index 1837-1915.
- ¹⁶ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FreeBMD Marriage and Birth Index 1837-1915; RG11/673/128/p45; RG13/1059/81/p17.
- ¹⁷ FreeBMD Birth and Marriage Index 1837-1915; London, England, Marriages and Banns 1754-1921; RG/11/857/p2.
- ¹⁸ RG14PN6241 RG78PN296 RD109 SD1 ED7 SN207; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920.
- ¹⁹ http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/honours_and_awards; the Battle of Poelcappelle marked the end of the successful attacks during the Battle of Passchendaele (Wikipedia).
- ²⁰ Extract on file.
- ²¹ The National Archives Item reference J 77/3742/3996; England & Wales Marriage and Death Indexes 1916-2005; while Richard waited until his first wife died before marrying again, the respondent in the divorce case remarried in 1939; Harry Barrett and his second wife Ethel Joyce were buried at the Rock Municipal Cemetery, Nottingham, in 1954 and 1970 respectively (www.gravestonephotos.com).
- ²² FreeBMD Birth and Marriage Index 1837-1915; RG13/689/137/p17; RG9/1220/24/p3; RG13/873/63/p5; RG14PN10768 RG78PN582 RD211 SD2 ED2 SN72.
- ²³ FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960; UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; England & Wales Death Index 1916-2005.