

**The Life and Times of
Harry Frank Bradley**
[1896-1956]



Harry Frank Bradley, c.1946

Introduction

Over the years, without any specific intention on my part, I have become the repository for many of the photos, documents, letters, postcards and keepsakes on my mother's side of the family.

It was while sifting through all these memorabilia that I had the idea of putting together this document on the life and times of my grandfather, Harry Frank Bradley, who sadly died just a few months before my parents were married.

There is nothing particularly extraordinary about the life of Frank, but he did have the misfortune to live through two world wars - the first as a young soldier and prisoner of war, the second as an active member of the Royal Observer Corps.

A gentleman's outfitter by profession, Frank ran two shops in the county of Gloucestershire, one in Stonehouse and the other in Nailsworth, and was always well-dressed, even on picnics and days by the sea.

Very much a family man, Frank married Mary Frances Peter in 1929 and settled down in Grosvenor House, a large semi-detached house in Stroud, only a few miles from the shop in Stonehouse. He and Mary had two daughters in the early 1930s, Gillian Mary and Bridget Elizabeth, my mother.

I like to think that in his own unpretentious way, through his postcards, his letters and his prisoner-of-war diary, he has a story to tell for those who may be interested.

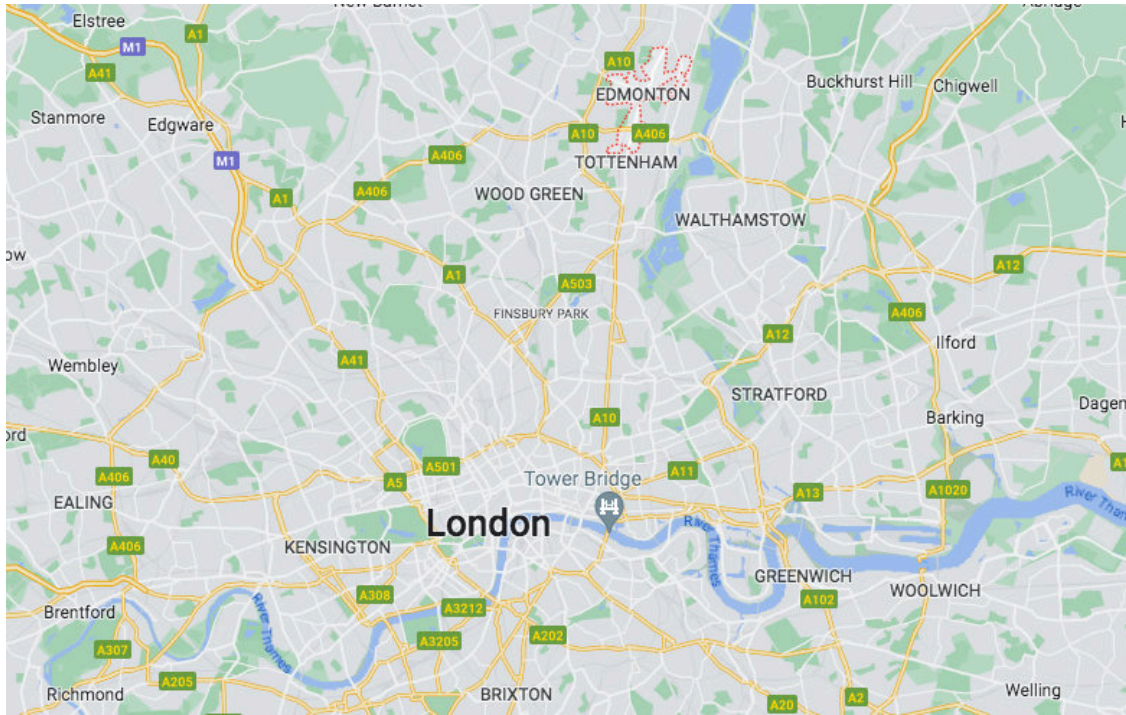
Tony Lawson

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1896-1913

Harry Frank Bradley was born on Saturday 8th February 1896 at n.359 The Crescent, Edmonton, Middlesex, just north of Tottenham in London, England.



Frank's father, George Bradley [1854-1931], was a well-established Tottenham grocer with three employees working for him at the time of Frank's birth. His mother, Sarah Elizabeth Smith, was born and raised on Eastcott Farm, the daughter and fifth child (nine altogether) of a very successful farmer in Swindon, Wiltshire. George and Sarah were married in Highworth, Wiltshire in the first quarter of 1880.

GC 996262

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH.

SUPPLIED AT THE SPECIAL FEE OF 6d.
APPLICABLE IN CERTAIN STATUTORY CASES.

This Certificate is issued for the Purposes of National Insurance Act

Registration District **EDMONTON**

BIRTH in the Sub-district of **Edmonton** in the **COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.**

No.	When and where born	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth
359	Eighth February 1896 5 The Crescent Edmonton UD	Harry Frank	Boy	George BRADLEY	Sarah Elizabeth BRADLEY formerly SMITH	Grocer (Master)	S.E. Bradley Mother 5 The Crescent Edmonton	Twentieth March 1896	John Harman Judd <i>Registrar.</i>	-----

I hereby certify that the above is a true Copy of an Entry of Birth in a Register Book in my custody.

Witness my hand this 13th day of March 1913 56 *[Signature]* **Superintendent Registrar.**

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this Certificate or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

[NOTE.—The word "Superintendent" to be struck out when the Certificate is given by the Registrar.]

Insert in this margin any Notes which appear in the original Entry.

Frank's birth certificate, 1896

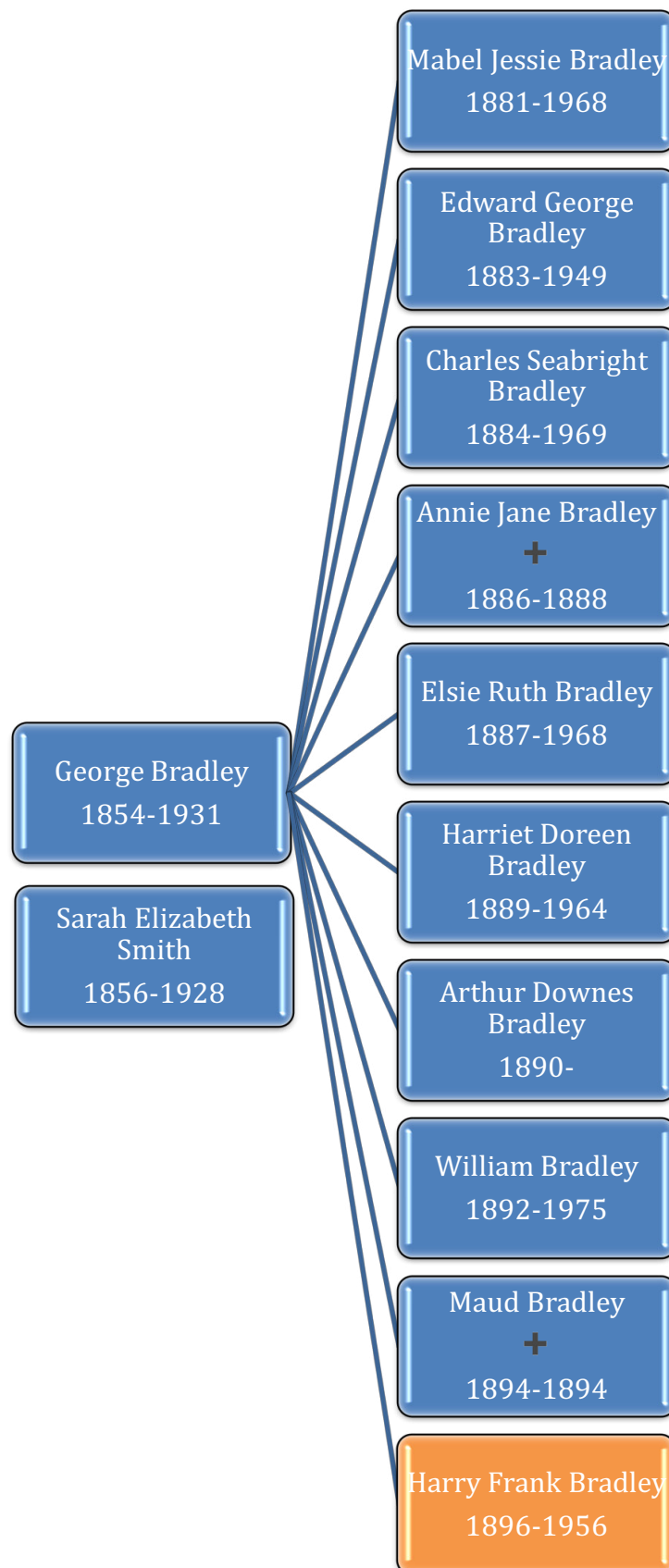


Frank's grandparents c.1880: William George Bradley (1826-1886) and Ann Whiteman (1827-1901)



Frank's parents c.1920: George Bradley (1854-1931) and Sarah Elizabeth Smith (1856-1928)

Frank was the youngest of 10 children, two of whom died very young.



At some point during Frank's childhood, the family moved from London to Clevedon House, Wroughton, in Wiltshire (presumably encouraged by Sarah's family) to take up farming. It was here that Frank was baptised on Thursday 12th May 1910 at the age of 14.

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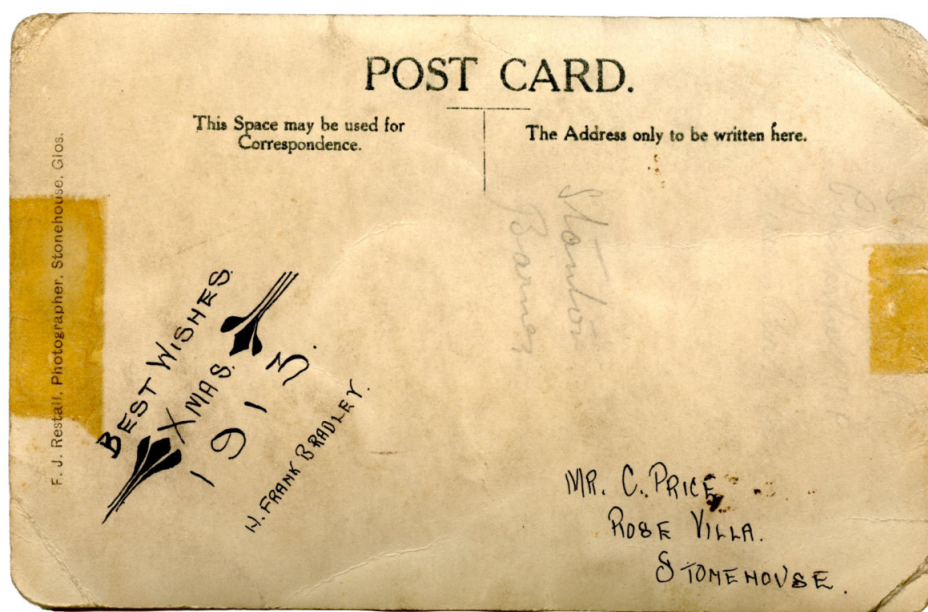
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Wroughton</u> in the County of <u>Wilts</u> in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and <u>Ten</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1910 April 23 rd No. 217	Edward George	George Sarah Elizabeth	Bradley	Clevedon House Wroughton	Farmer	Richard J. Kettle Vicar
1910 April 23 rd No. 218	Ellen Mary	Richard James Maria	Packer	High Street Wroughton	Labourer	Richard J. Kettle Vicar.
1910 May 12 th No. 219	Harry Frank	George Sarah Elizabeth	Bradley	Clevedon House Wroughton	Farmer	Richard J. Kettle Vicar.
1910 May 15 th Whituesday No. 220	Frederick William	Alfred Charles Edith Jane	Bedford	The Pithelens Wroughton	Labourer	Richard J. Kettle Vicar
1910 May 15 th Whituesday No. 221	Alfred Henry	Alfred James Blanche	Smith	Badminton Wroughton	Labourer	Richard J. Kettle Vicar
1910 May 15 th Whituesday No. 222	Caroline Ellen	George Louise Ellen	Collier	High Street Wroughton	Labourer	Richard J. Kettle Vicar
1910 May 15 th Whituesday No. 223	William George	Frederick John Edith Ellen	Gray	Prior's Hill Wroughton	Labourer	Richard J. Kettle Vicar.
1910 May 15 th Whituesday No. 224	Eric Albert	William Hilda Aurora	Isles	High Street Wroughton	Draper	Richard J. Kettle Vicar.



The Bradley Boys - c.1910

Edward George – George (father) – Charles
Arthur Downes – William
Harry Frank

The portrait postcard below, presumably delivered by hand, shows that as early as 1913 Frank had already made connections in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, though how this connection occurred remains unknown.



Christmas postcard, 1913

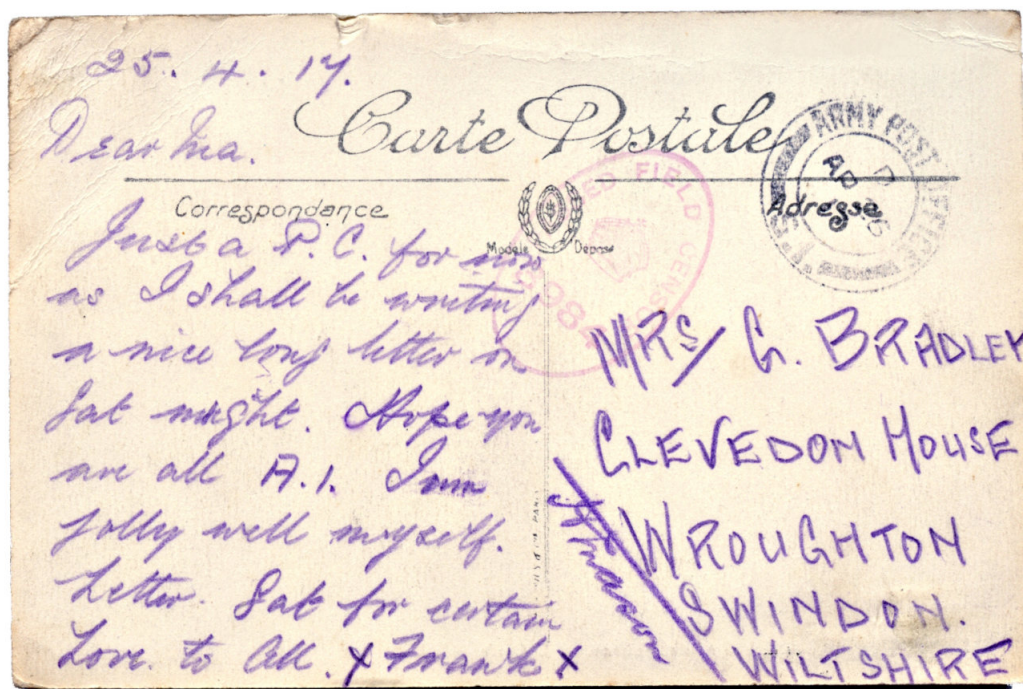
1914-1918

When the First World War broke out, and England declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914, Frank had turned 18 in February that year and was old enough to enlist. He joined the 25th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers (2nd Tyneside Irish) which was raised in Newcastle on 9th November 1914. In June 1915, the Battalion joined the 103rd Brigade, 34th Division at Ripon and after further training they moved to Salisbury Plain in late August for final training. They proceeded to France in January 1916 where the 34th Division concentrated at La Crosse, east of St. Omer.





It is not known exactly when Frank enlisted with the Northumberland Fusiliers, whether at the moment of its formation or sometime later. From a letter that he wrote during the war, it is clear that the last Christmas he spent with his family before leaving for the war was in 1914. The first tangible evidence of him actually in service in France are two postcards from Abbeville, one dated 25th April 1917 and the other dated 29th June 1917. These would have been sent during the stand-off period after the heavy losses suffered during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.





35 ~~1000000000~~ — Les Bords de la Somme, — LL.



On 21st March 1918, the Germans launched their spring offensive, also known as the “Kaiserschlacht” (Kaiser’s Battle). This was a series of devastating attacks along the Western Front and Germany’s last great gamble to win the war before the arrival of American troops could impact the final outcome. In just five hours, the Germans fired one million artillery shells at the British lines held by the Fifth Army – over 3000 shells fired every minute. The artillery bombardment was followed by lightning attacks carried out by Germany’s elite stormtroopers. After a long period of static warfare, the British were unprepared for such a massive onslaught and by the end of the first day, 21,000 British soldiers had been taken prisoner and the Germans had made great advances through the lines of the Fifth Army.

It was on the following day, 22nd March 1918, that Frank himself was taken prisoner at Croisilles on the Western Front. For the following three months, throughout the first part of the spring offensive, Frank was forced to work for the Germans behind their lines in Ervillers, Écoust-Saint-Mein, and Quéant.

Finally, on 5th July, he was marched away from the front to Cambrai, a first step towards the Parchim POW camp in Germany.

FRANK’S MOVEMENTS AS A POW DURING WWI



No news about Frank reached home until 8th May when a letter from the Infantry Record Office, written on 22nd April, finally arrived, saying that Frank had been posted as ‘missing’ on 21/23 March 1918 with the B.E.F. in France.

No. _____
(If replying, please quote above No.)



Army Form B. 104—83.

Record Office,

22.4.1918.

SIR OR MADAM,

I regret to have to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that (No.) 59211 (Rank) Private (Name) Henry Frank Bradley (Regiment) 25th NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS was posted as "missing" on the 21/23 March 1918 with the B.E.F. France

The report that he is missing does not necessarily mean that he has been killed, as he may be a prisoner-of-war or temporarily separated from his regiment.

Official reports that men are prisoners of war take some time to reach this country, and if he has been captured by the enemy it is probable that unofficial news will reach you first. In that case I am to ask you to forward any letter received at once to this Office, and it will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Should any further official information be received it will be at once communicated to you.

I am,

SIR OR MADAM,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Logan Call
for Col.
Officer in charge of Records.

Important.—Any change of address should be immediately notified to this Office. *not York.*

(7 29 98) W1311—P235 60,000 11/17 HWV(P791) Forms/B.104—83/4.

[TURN OVER

The news must have been devastating for the family,
but did not leave them without hope that Frank could still be alive.

MISSING OFFICERS AND MEN.

The following are the steps taken by the War Office to ascertain whether officers and men who have been reported Missing are Prisoners of War, or, if not, whether any definite information is obtainable as to their fate :—

(i) *The Commanding Officer.*

The Officer Commanding the Unit, before making his report, ascertains as far as possible from the officers and men present with the Unit, whether any reliable evidence is forthcoming. If not, he reports the soldier Missing.

(ii) *The British Red Cross and Order of St. John.*

Lists of the missing are supplied by the War Office to the Enquiry Department of the Red Cross, 18, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1.

The representatives of this body are given facilities at the hospitals and camps at home and overseas to collect information from wounded soldiers.

Information so collected, if likely to establish the fate of the officer or man, is passed to the War Office, and in the case of the rank and file is taken up officially without request from the relatives.

In the case of officers these reports if sufficiently definite are also investigated, but the initiative is as a rule left to the relatives, since the Red Cross reports are frequently numerous and conflicting, and it is found that the relatives have in many cases received more reliable information direct from the officers of the unit.

Enquiries addressed to 18, Carlton House Terrace, will also be answered direct, and all reliable information collected will be communicated. The enquiry should give the name, Christian name, regimental number, regiment, battalion, company or platoon, and date of casualty. For Royal Artillery the Battery is necessary, and for the Royal Engineers and Army Service Corps the Company.

(iii) *Enquiries in Germany and other enemy countries.*

Full lists of the missing are prepared in the War Office, and a large number of copies are sent monthly to the Foreign Office for transmission through the good offices of the Netherlands Government to Germany and to other enemy countries.

These lists are circulated through the prisoners of war camps and hospitals, and are accompanied by forms on which evidence can be furnished regarding officers and men whose names are on the list. By this means, in an appreciable number of cases, information has been received showing what has been the fate of the missing.

(iv) *General Remarks.*

It will be seen that by these arrangements an endeavour is made to cover broadly the whole field of possible witnesses of the missing soldier's fate, and if he has unfortunately met his death upon the battlefield to place his relatives in possession of definite information upon the subject.

If, on the other hand, he is in fact a prisoner of war, news is in the great majority of cases received from him direct in the first instance by the means of letters addressed to his relatives. In a few cases his name first appears upon an official German List, but unfortunately, in a number of these, the list shows that he has died in hospital a few days after capture. In all but very exceptional cases, the news of his being a prisoner comes through before there would have been time for an enquiry to be sent to Germany, and for an answer to be received.

Individual enquiries sent to Germany in missing cases have been found by experience to produce no correct information that was not already in the possession of the War Office, and as the issue of the lists of missing ensures much wider circulation of the names, individual enquiries are not now sent.

The placing of the name on the missing list is done by the War Office automatically, and it is therefore not necessary for relatives to take any steps to ensure that official enquiries in Germany are set on foot. It is particularly requested that letters should not be sent to the Netherlands Legation or to the Foreign Office, as applications of this description cannot be dealt with there.

WAR OFFICE, S.W.1,
February, 1917.

On 21st June 1918, Frank's father wrote to the Central Prisoners of War Committee asking them if they had any further information regarding his son. He received a reply, written on 28th June, stating that Frank had officially been recorded as a prisoner of war on 25th June 1918. It is more than likely that this was the first reassurance for the family that Frank was still alive and it must have come as a great relief.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN
OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND.

CENTRAL PRISONERS OF WAR COMMITTEE.

The Rt. Hon. The EARL OF SANDWICH, Chairman
Lieut.-Col. L. IMPEY, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary

Cheques should be made payable to the Earl of Sandwich, and crossed Barclay & Co., not negotiable.

Telegrams: Prisoners, South Kensington, London.
Telephone: Kensington, 7040.

Nearest Stations (BROMPTON ROAD TUBE
SOUTH KENSINGTON.

Please reply to:
THE SECRETARY,
Central Prisoners of War Committee,
and quote
Records, M.E.P.

4, THURLOE PLACE

(Nearly opposite the Brompton Oratory).

LONDON, S.W.7.

28. 6. 1918

DEAR Madam

In reply to your letter of the 21. 6. 18 we recorded

54211 P.O. H. F. Beadley 25th Northamptonshire a prisoner of war
on 20. 6. 18

No food or clothing may be sent to prisoners of war by private individuals as these must go through the authorised associations who begin to despatch parcels immediately they receive a prisoner's address. All regiments have their care committees, by whom the full supply of clothing and also three food parcels per fortnight are sent to each prisoner. The Care Committee for this regiment is:—

St. Thomas' Association
Kensington Palace W.8

You should apply to them for full information, and they will be most grateful for any contributions towards the cost of the parcels, and will see that those towards which subscriptions are received are sent in the name of the donor.

Cigarettes and tobacco are included in the contents of the food parcels, but an extra supply may be sent by means of a permit issued by the Care Committee.

The next of kin of a prisoner of war may send a small Personal Parcel to him once a quarter, and for this a coupon is necessary. Application must be made to the Care Committee for this and also for instructions.

No restriction is placed upon the number of letters that may be sent to a prisoner of war. No stamp is required and the flap of the envelope should be turned in and not stuck down. Letters may be sent through the post in the ordinary way and should be directed as follows:—

Kriegsgefangenensendung, c/o G.P.O., London.

Prisoner's number, rank, initials, name,

Regiment,

Kriegsgefangenenlager,

Germany.

Stammkaserne
Paderborn

Necklenburg

Germany

Any change of address should be sent to the Care Committee without delay.

Yours faithfully,

L. IMPEY, Lieut.-Colonel,

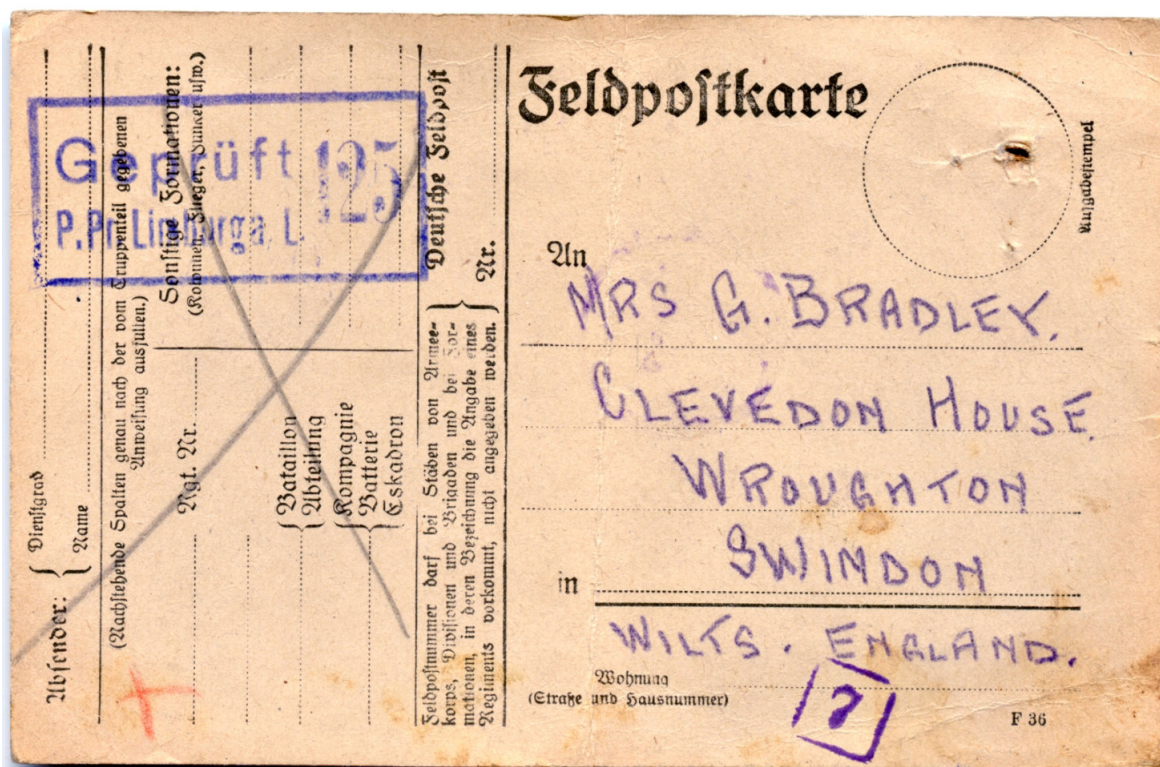
Secretary.

P.P. M.E.P.

54

Mr. Beadley

On 15th July, a postcard written by Frank on 17th April 1918, stating that he had been captured by the Germans and was a prisoner of war, finally reached its destination three months later.



Another letter, this time written by the British Army, dated 2nd August 1918 confirmed once again that Frank was a prisoner of war in German occupied territory.

Army Form B. 104—83A.

No. _____
(If replying, please quote
above No.)

1st Infantry Record Office,
York Station.
August 2nd 1918.

SIR OR ~~MADAM~~,

I have to inform you that a report has been received
from the War Office to the effect that (No.) 59211.
(Rank) Private (Name) Harry F. Bradley.
(Regiment) 26th Bn Northumberland Fusiliers.
is a Prisoner of War in Germany or occupied territory.

Should any other information be received concerning him, such
information will be at once communicated to you.

Instructions as to the method of communicating with Prisoners of
War can be obtained at any Post Office.

I am,
SIR OR ~~MADAM~~,
Your obedient Servant,

L. J. King
for Officer in charge of Records.

IMPORTANT.—Any change of your address should be immediately notified to this
Office. It should also be notified, if you receive information from the soldier above, that
his address has been changed.

(9 38 5) W 13495—5013 80,000 12/15 H W V(P 1361) Forms/B. 104—83A/1

At about this time, it is quite probable that a letter written by Frank on 10th June 1918 would have reached its destination. In this case, however, there is no postmarked envelope to give a more precise date.

My dear Mother,

10 June 1918.

I can just imagine how anxiously you will have been waiting for a letter from me but I can assure you I am just as anxious about you all. Well Mother dear I am keeping fairly well so that at present there is not cause for you to worry about me. All I want now to put my mind at rest is to have news of you all at home. We are allowed to write two letters & four cards a month, so you should hear from me about once a fortnight. As I shall send my letter to you I shall want you always to remember ^{me} to the other folks to whom I used to write, including "The Moochens, Miss Moore, V.D. Mullins all at Pursey & tell them why I cannot write & I sincerely hope they will continue to write as usual.

Any parcels will be very thankfully received and very welcome, and should I think be sent through the British Red Cross Society. However enquiries at the Post Office (Swindon) or the local branch of the Red Cross Society will be met with all particulars of how to send. What to send &

the official recognised way to send. Please
tell any of the others who are likely to send
parcels that they should make enquiries as
to ways and means at the local B. R. C. Society.
I should also make it known to any local
Prisoners of War Relief Societies that I am a
P. of W. Most countries have them & some
towns have a fund for their own prisoners of
war. You might include a pair of braces
a pipe tobacco & cigarettes ^{soap} also a needle &
cotton in your first parcel, & hope you will
get it on the way as quickly as possible.
I am longing to have a letter.
Any I have not heard from you since the
latter part of March. Is Elsie & Dorcas
still at home? I can picture you all just
now busy with the haymaking. I hope
the crops are good & that you have some
good fine weather to grab the hay in.
I expect you were a bit an-
xious about me at first when my letters
did not arrive & more so when yours to
me were returned. I hope this letter
will set your mind at rest as I can

^{III}
assure you it relieves me to have the
privilege of being able to write it.

We go out on working parties
but have a fair amount of spare time
only wish I had a few books to read.

How are Peter & Will & the Hicks
going on? When you write you must take
great care to tell me all news How every
one is getting on etc.,

Well Mother I sometimes get
a little home sick & I am afraid
~~I get home again I shall not want to~~
leave it again in a hurry.

I do not think there is any
thing further for me to say this time
Please give my love to Father Elsie
Doreen Ted & Elsie & family. With my
fondest love & kisses to you my dear
Mother. I am Your Loving
and Affectionate Son.

Harry Frank Bradley

MRS M.C. WARD.

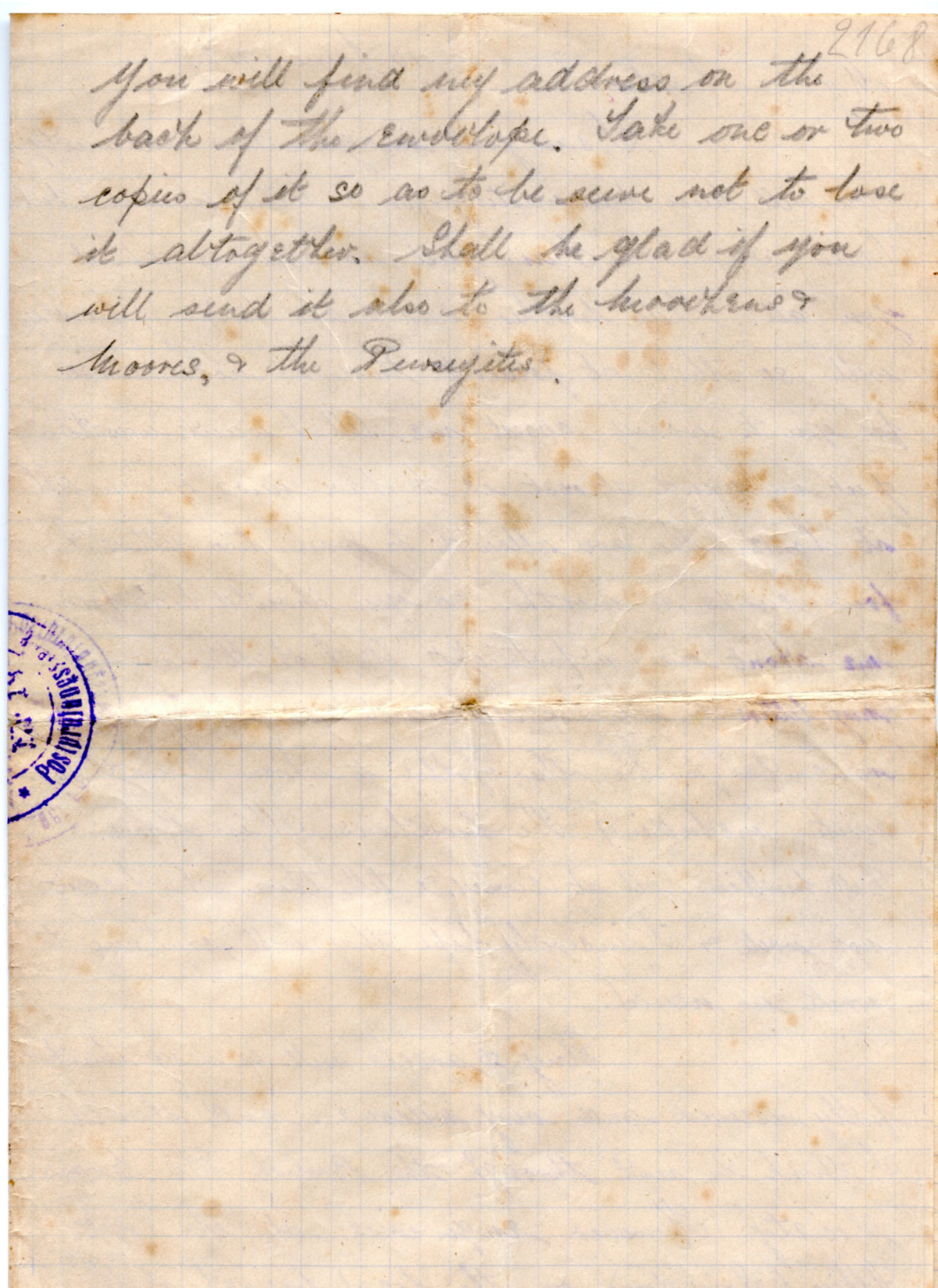
25 GARSTANG RD.

FULWOOD.

PRESTON. LANCs.

Please write to this
address for me. She
will be glad to hear P.T.D.





On 12th July 1918, Frank was sent to work in the forest in Locquignol where, judging from his diary entries, conditions were terrible and men were dropping dead on parade. On 15th July, Frank and his 'pal' were admitted to hospital in Le Quesnoy where his 'pal', Handrick, died four days later.

On 5th August Frank left the hospital in Le Quesnoy and on 7th August was admitted to hospital in Trier where he stayed for just over a month. From the hospital in Trier he sent two postcards home.

The first postcard was written on the 18th August and arrived on 15th October.

Sunday 18 Aug 18

My dear Mother. Just a post
card to let you know I am
still pretty well. I wrote a
letter the other day. I hope
you will not forget to write
to the moors, Morehen &
Mrs Ward. 25 Garstang Road.
Preston, Lancs. & please
give them my new address.
I hope you will hasten with
your enquiries about the
Parcels. Do not forget a few
cigarettes. You can have them
sent straight from Wills.
Love to all Aunt Bessie

for new address: Limburg a/L

Kriegs - Gefangenen - Stammlager Limburg a/L.	Kriegsgefangenen- Sendung.	
PTE. H. FRANK BRADLEY Name des Absenders "A" COMP 25 TH BATT ^{EN} NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS	MRS G. BRADLEY. CLEVEDON HOUSE WROUGHTON. SWINDON. WILTSHIRE.	
Persönliche Nummer 59211 Geprüft. 19 P. Pr. Limburg a/L	Lieu de destination (Bestimmungsort) Arrondissement (France) Département (France) Province (France) Pays (Land)	3 WILTSHIRE. ENGLAND.

The second postcard was written on 26th August and arrived on 29th October.

26. Aug. 1918.
My dear Mother.
Just another card
to say I am pretty well. I hope
you have been getting my
cards & letters & have replied
to them as I am so anxious
to hear from you. Please inform
all who may be interested of
my address. You will find
it on the other side of the card.
My name & number. Compfy.
Regiment & Battalion.
Kriegs Gefangenen Stammlager
Limburg a/L.
I am looking forward to a
parcel or two soon. Expect
you have already sent. Do
not forget a few cigarettes or
tobacco & a pipe. Give my
love to all. Hope to write a letter
soon. Your loving Son. Frank.

Kriegs-Gefangenen - Stammlager Limburg a/L.	Kriegsgefangenen- Sendung.
MR. H. FRANK BRADLEY. Name des Absenders	MR. G. BRADLEY. CLEVEDON HOUSE WROUGHTON. SWINDON WILTSHIRE.
A. Coy. 25 th BATT ^Y NORTHUMBERLAND FUS ^{RS}	Lieu de destination (Bestimmungsort) P. M. L. 20
REG ^T Persönliche Nummer	Arrondissement (France) Département (France) Province (Belgique) Pays (Land) ENGLAND.

Stamp: Absendung 5.9.18
Stamp: 3

On Sunday 1st September, while convalescing in Deauville on the north coast of France, far from the front, one of Frank's elder brothers, Arthur Downes, known to the family as 'Peter', wrote a letter to his mother to say that he had found out that Frank was in the Parchim POW camp. In actual fact, Frank did not reach Parchim until 29th September as is clear from his diary. Peter's letter probably did not arrive home until late October.

Telegrams
FERME DU COTEAU
DEAUVILLE-SUB-MER.
CALVADOS.

CANADIAN CONVALESCENT HOME FOR OFFICERS,

ARMY POST OFFICE S-66, 83

B.E.F., FRANCE.

Sunday Sept 1st 1918.

My Dear Mother.

I am writing just a few lines today I have located where poor old Frank is. He is in the province of Mecklenburg which is nearest the Baltic Sea. His camp "Parchim" is right in the centre of the province quite near the lakes, you have a map in the atlas & you might see it yourself. I have been very poorly during the past few days with a bad throat & have just got up for 4 days. so am staying here a few days longer to get quite cured, in answer to this please address my letters to M & Co Base

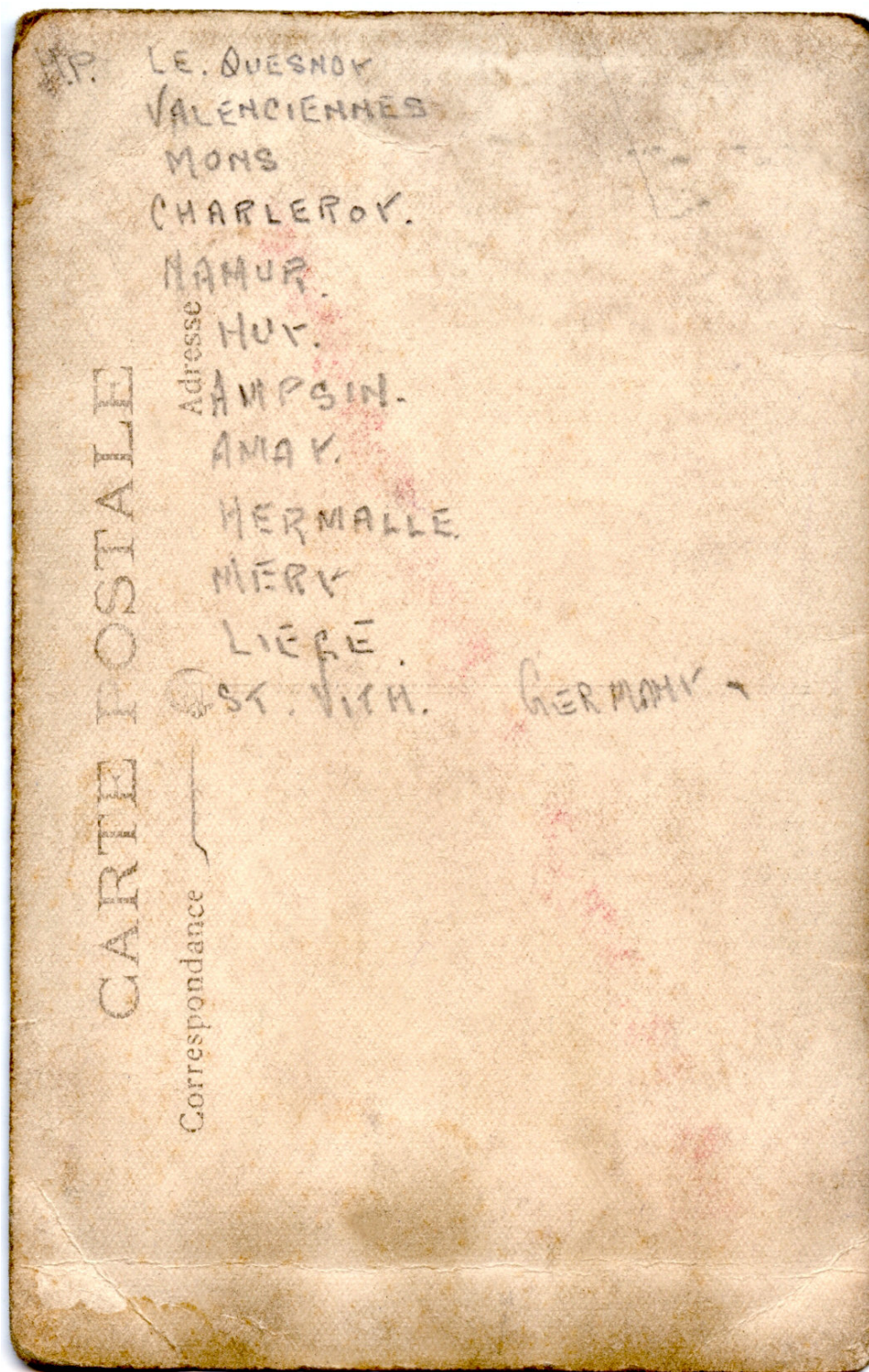
Heaps of love. hope this news will interest you.

Bye Bye.

Yours affectionately
Peter
XX

While he was in hospital in Trier and presumably when he was feeling a little better, perhaps some time in early September, Frank had his photograph taken and made into a portrait postcard, a common practice for prisoners of war.





On 11th September 1918, Frank left the hospital in Trier and the following day he arrived in Königsbrück. He remained there until the 28th September and on the 25th September, he wrote a long letter to his mother. It arrived on 3rd November.

Kriegsgefangenensendung.

PAID CVS 18 #		Datum-Stempel 1918	Dienst-Stempel PAID CVS 18	Post-Stempel
Pays de Destination ENGLAND				
M RS G. BRADLEY.				
Rue CLEVEDON HOUSE Nr.				
à WROUGHTON NR SWINDON				
Arrondissement			Département WILTSHIRE.	

Absender: **No 59211. Pte. H.F. BRADLEY. 25TH BATTALION.**

Regiment: **NORTHUMBERLAND Fus. Mle 10984 Bar. R.Y.**

Neues Lager Königsbrück (Sachsen)

GERMANY.

**OPENED BY
CENSOR.**

P.W. 1390

Königsbrück, le 25th Sept., 1918

My Dear Mother.

You will by this time have received a card from me from the above address. It has changed once or twice just lately as I have been moving about. It really makes no difference as my letters will follow me on. I received a letter from you today dated 9th July. The latest of your letters I have had was, dated the 6th August. So glad to hear of the arrival of the two sons. The Tell Doll. I am prepared to undertake the responsibility of being the kiddies. God father. Please congratulate Edith for me. Today I also received two cards of advice for parcels from the "English Women's Association" Kensington Palace, London W.8. one the receipt of which I have to acknowledge to "Mother". Have you written to these people, as you make no mention of it in any of your letters. I have not received the parcels yet. If you can send will you forward a shaving outfit (safety) hair brush, tooth brush & paste & a pair or two of socks. A little cash would also be useful as being in Hospital so long I have not had the chance to earn any. Am out of hospital now & am feeling very well. You

will find my address as it should
be on the outside of this letter. Please
give my love & kindest regards to all.
Love to you dear mother from your
loving & affectionate son. H. Frank Bradley.

On 29th September, Frank finally reached the Parchim POW camp, where he remained until 16th October when he was sent on to the Chemnitz lager. From the 23rd October to 10th December, he was stationed in Wolkenstein, where his standard of living rose considerably. It was from here that he wrote another lengthy letter to his mother on 30th November, written on 'Chemnitz' paper shortly after the signing of the armistice on 11th November 1918.

Kriegsgefangenensendung.

PAID
MRS
S DEC 28 8

GEORGE. BRADLEY.

EBERSDORF
28.11.184-5N
3
182. CHEMNITZ

(rue)
(street)
(strada)

CLEVEDON HOUSE.
WROUGHTON.
SWINDON.

à
in

Place réservée aux autorités militaires	(Département) (Arrondissement) (County) (Provincia)
Censor's stamp	(Pays) (Country) (Paese)
Bollo di Censura	

WILTSHIRE.
ENGLAND.

Mon adresse — My address — Il mio indirizzo:

No. 59211.

Nom, prénom — Name in full
Nome, cognome

MR. H. FRANK BRADLEY

25TH BATT. NORTHUMBERLAND. FUS^{RS}

No. 7 Komp. No. 3077.

Gefangenenlager Chemnitz.

GERMANY.

Ne pas écrire sur cette page.
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Non iscrivere su questa pagina.

Chemnitz, November 30th — 1918.

Réponse bien lisible — Reply legibly — Risposta leggibile.

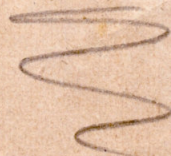
My dear Mother.

I know how glad you will be to have a few lines although I have nothing to say to make up an interesting letter. One thing I am thankful to be able to say is, that I am keep-

ing in good health, in spite of the weather which, at present, is very cold. We shall soon have Christmas with us again which I trust will be a little brighter than previous ones. I am beginning to wonder if I shall spend this Xmas with you. Would that not be just splendid. The last Xmas I was at home was in 1914. It was quite wintry here last week, when we had our first fall of snow, sufficient to clothe the countryside in a mantle of white. It is however, nice and dry so there is no cause for complaint nor danger of catching cold.

I have thought about
you all such a lot just lately
of the two little kiddies I have
not yet had the pleasure of seeing.
I shall have some pleasant little
trips round when I get back &
you will have to accompany me
on some of them.

Have you heard
from Mrs Ward at all? Please
remember me to the morehens
& Miss Moore when you write. I
hope you ~~not~~ wrote to the "Irish
Women's Association", Kensington
Palace, London. W. 8. as I asked
you to. My love to father & Ted
Elsie & family. I am - dear mother
Your Loving & Affectionate Son.
H. Frank Bradley.



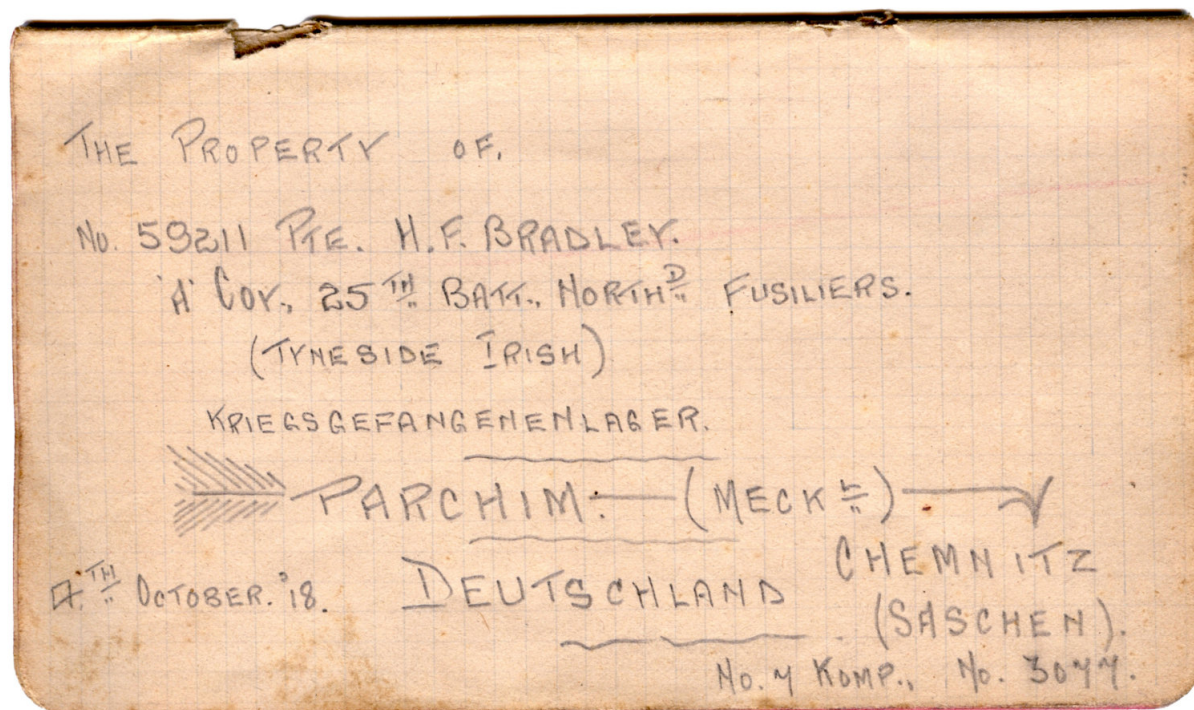
On 11th December, Frank returned briefly to the Chemnitz POW camp before leaving for Szczecin, in Poland on 16th December. It was from Szczecin that the first POWs finally left for Copenhagen on 18th December 1918 with Frank joining them on 21st December.

Frank's last postcard home was sent from Copenhagen on 26th December and reached its destination on 3rd January 1918.



Frank left Denmark on HM troopship Plassy on 27th December and arrived in Leith, in Scotland, on 30th December.

On 4th October, while in the Parchim POW camp, Frank wrote a diary of all the events from the moment of his capture by the Germans onwards. He kept this diary up to date until his return to Leith in Scotland on 30th December 1918.



- ²³/₃/18. Taken prisoner at CROISELLES.
 Arrived at VILLERS. ECOUST and
 QUEANT camps. Work behind
 the line food - clothing - munition.
- 5/4/18 Marched to CAMBRAY. Took train
 to SAINT GILAIN. for bath and
 disinfection. On to QUEBUE
 CAMP. BLAYTON.
- 12/4/18 To the forest. LOCHIMYON. Food
 terrible. Unable to work owing
 to weakness. Appalling death
 roll. Men drop down on parade.
- 14/4/18 Reported sick. So weak could
 not stand for any period of
 time.
- 15/4/18 My pal & I to Hospital at LE-
 QUESNOY. General weakness
 from lack of nourishing food.
 Good food but conditions poor.
- 19/4/18 My pal dies CHAPPEL ROW.
 HANORICK ELVET. COY DURHAM.
- 5/8/18 Left for GERMANY.
- 7/8/18 Arrived at Hospital at TRIER.
 After a tiring journey. Passed
 through: VALENCIENNES. MONS.
 CHARLEROY. NAMUR. HUY. AMPSIN.
 AINAT. HERMALLE. MERY. LIEGE.
 ST. WIT.
- 11/8/18 Red letter day. Sardines - butter-
 fruit - egg. Emergency parcel.

8/9/18 Still in hospital. Received
14 letters & 2 P. cards from I. W. Ass.

11/9/18. Left TRIER hospital. WELL TREATED
Passed through EHRANG. COBLENTZ.
LIMBERG. - GIESSEN - ESENACH -
WITTHA - GOTHA - LEIPZIG. THECLA
BORSBURG. DRESDEN. KONIGSBRUCK.

12/9/18 Arrived at KONIGSBRUCK.

14/9/18 Registered today. No. 10984. Good
time with the trench.

28/9/18 FRIDAY. Left for PARCHIM. Spent
the night in Hotel in DRESDEN.
CHANGED at BERLIN. Marched across
the city. Fine massive buildings
passed the UNTER-BEN-LINDEN
Rush on the trains etc.

29/9/18 Arrived at PARCHIM. Birth place
of VON MOLTKE. Nice clean clean
try town.

30/9/18. Wanned for COMMANDO. Stopped
to see dentist. Weather fabrick.

9/10/18 Day in PARCHIM. Potatoe Digging.

19/10/18 Wanned to proceed to Lager
at CHEMNITZ.

11/10/18 Received 1st grocery parcel. I. W. Ass.

12/10/18 " 2nd - do - - do -
Wanned to proceed to Lager
at CHEMNITZ.

- 13/10/18 Football match. Concert in the evening. Good news from front.
- 16/10/18 Left PARCHIM for CHEMNITZ-LAGER
- 17/10/18 Arrived at CHEMNITZ. Fair camp. Lumination: bath etc.
- 21/10/18 Received two hours "Still Stand for not attending Kdo., 2 Parade. 10-12 AM
- 23/10/18 Proceeded on Kommando. Papier Fabrick (Paper factory) WOLKENSTEIN. Excellent billet. Food good. Country beautiful.
- 28/10/18 My pal receives his parcels and our standard of living is raised considerably.
- 3/11/18 Walked to WILISCHTHAL passing through FLOSSPLATZ and SHARPHENSTEIN. 12 Kilometres. An ideal walk through the valley passing through woods-Stream and the rock. Visited PATENT PAPIERFABRIK. Where 4 other British gefangene are working. Had a real good afternoon, & got fitted out with clothing etc. Good hearted fellows.
- 10/11/18 Comrades from WILISCHTHAL. to see us. To JAMES WALTER to see another pal. To SHINBORNE for a stroll. Received Pay for October. 1 M. 5 PH per day.

- 31/11/18 SUNDAY. My fall to WILISCHTHAL.
 wrote 2 letters & had a read.
 'The Lure of the Labrador Wild.'
 Kipling's call to find the
 "Something Hidden Behind the
 Ranges". by Dillon Wallace.
 being Hubbards Expedition.
- 21/11/18 WEDNESDAY. & (Fire tag)
 German Holiday. Had the
 first fall of snow this week.
- 10/12/18 Left WOLKENSTEIN for
 MARIENBURG.
- 11/12/18 Arrived at Lager, Chemnitz.
- 16/12/18 Left for STETTIN.
- 17/12/18 Arrived at STETTIN and
 on to ALTDAMM. Lager.
- 18/12/18 First batch left for
 COPENHAGEN.
- 21/12/18 Left STETTIN for COPENHAGEN.
- 22/12/18 Arrived at COPENHAGEN. On
 by train to TAASTRUP. In
 camp the guests of the
 DANISH GOVERNMENT. Fairly
 good time. Food good.
- 24/12/18 Sent letters home. Diagonal
 snow day. Roast Pork
 for dinner.
 DRONNING MAVID.

25¹²/18 Xmas day. At GREVE CAMP.
TAASTRUP. DENMARK. Into
town in the evening.

27¹²/18. Left for England on the troop
ship PLASSX. Good send off
from COPENHAGEN. Started at
4 PM.

28¹²/18 Sea rough. Majority includ-
ing myself sea-sick.

Good food, etc. Passed
through minefield. Saw
about 20 mines. These were
fired on but without
result. Yankee boat
carrying French P of W
explodes several mines.

29¹²/18 SUNDAY. Passed with-
out incident. Saw a
school of porpoises.

30¹²/18 Anchored out of LEITH.
Hope to have a good re-
ception.

31 Had a great recep-
tion.

LEDER FARRCK

JOHN EGGER

Y. ELSWORTH
12648.

11/10/18 Received friends' grocery bills.
10/10/18 — do — do —
11/10/18 Parcel from I.W.A. 5th. 12 July
12/10/18 Parcel from I.W.A. 5th. 14 Aug.
17/10/18 — do — do — Cornhill

FRANK'S WWI REMNANTS: BANKNOTES, POW CURRENCY, BREAD VOUCHER



100,000 German Marks



1 German Mark



5 Pfennig from the Chemnitz POW camp



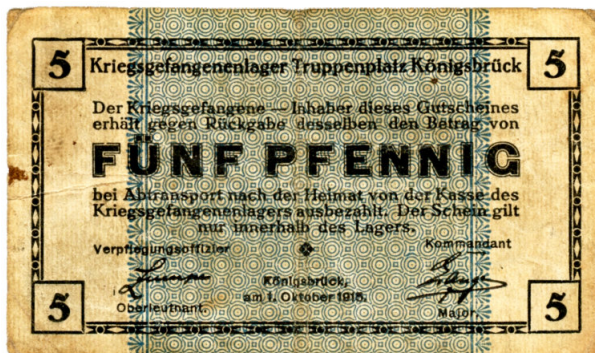
10 Pfennig from the Chemnitz POW camp



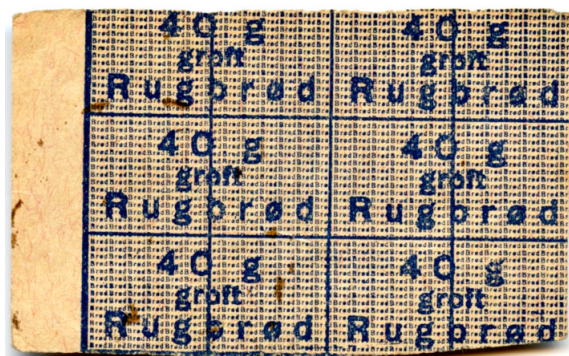
50 Pfennig from the Chemnitz POW camp



25 Pfennig from the Marienberg POW camp



5 & 10 Pfennig from the Königsbrück POW camp



Taastrup (Denmark) – ryebread voucher

1919-1938

Little is known regarding Frank's precise movements after his return from the war in 1919. What we do know from the 1911 pre-war national census, is that Frank's brother-in-law, George Nicol, 19 years his senior and living under the same roof at that time, was an established draper and may well have played a part in directing Frank towards the clothing profession in the post-war years.

[illegible]

It is equally plausible that Frank's pre-war connection with Mr. C. Price in Stonehouse could have led him to take up an apprenticeship with Mullins, an established draper with a shop on the eastern corner of Regent Street and the High Street (Bath Road) in Stonehouse. The original draper, Vincent Wood Mullins, died in 1921, but the shop continued to be run by his wife and son, also named Vincent.



V.W.Mullins shop, 1920s

This possibility would appear to be corroborated by the 1926 electoral register for the parish of Stonehouse which shows Frank as being "c/o Mrs. Mullins, High Street". It is quite likely, therefore, that Frank was lodging with the Mullins family while serving as an apprentice in their shop.

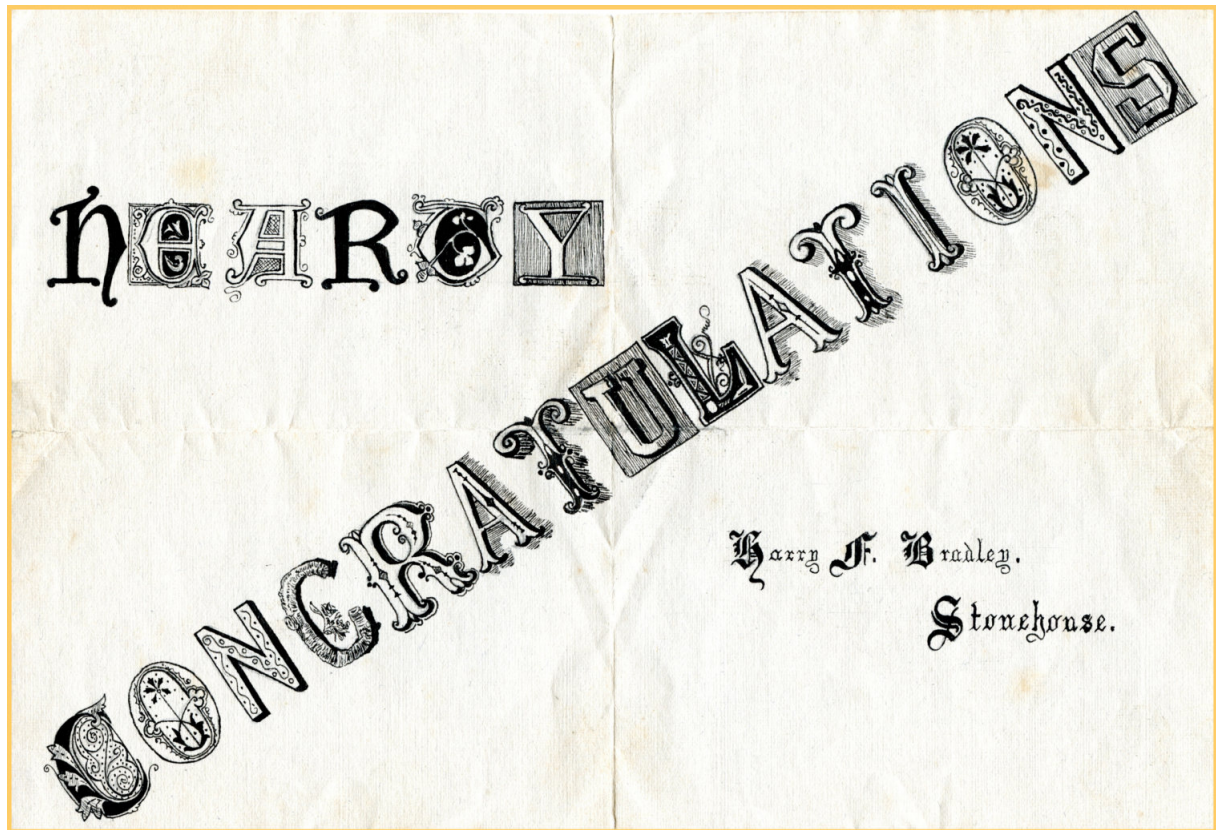
POLLING DISTRICT CW.				PARISH OF STONEHOUSE
114	R	O	Birt Ernest Sidney	Kimmins Road
115	HO	HO	Birt Bertha Lucy	Kimmins Road
116	R	O	Birt Owen	Queen's Road
117	R	O	Bishop Frederick James	Chapel Row
118	HO	HO	Bishop Ellen Georgina	Chapel Row
119	R	—	Bishop Norman	Canal Side
120	R	O	Bishop William	Canal Side
121	HO	HO	Bishop Sarah	Canal Side
122	R	—	Blackwell George Edward	Hill View Cottages
123	R	O	Blackwell Harold Kenneth Gould	Woodcock Lane
124	HO	HO	Blackwell Annie	Woodcock Lane
125	R	O	Blackwell Walter Henry	Hill View Cottages
126	R	O	Blackwell Walter Henry	Ham Lane
127	HO	HO	Blackwell Ethel Bessie	Ham Lane
128	R	O	Blair Joseph	39 Avenue Terrace
129	R	O	Blanch Ernest	Queen's Road
130	HO	HO	Blanch Lucy Kate	Queen's Road
131	R	O	Blick Andrew Robert—J	High Street
132	HO	HO	Blick Bessie Ann	High Street
133	R	O	Blick Charles	Regent Street
134	HO	HO	Blick Charlotte	Regent Street
135	O	O	Blick Florence Mary	Gloucester Road
136	R	—	Blick Leopold Robert James	High Street
137	R	—	Blick Percy Llewellyn	Regent Street
138	R	O	Blockley Charles Frederick	Lower Mills
139	O	O	Bond Frances Anne	Bridge House
140	O	O	Bond Jane	Bridge House
141	R	O	Boucher Archie Milton	Queen's Road
142	O	O	Boucher Grace Letitia	Queen's Road
143	R	—	Boughton Edward William	High Street
144	R	O	Bowen Louis Philip	Spring Cottages
145	HO	HO	Bowen Eliza Caroline	Spring Cottages
146	R	O	Box Edward William	Avenue Terrace
147	HO	HO	Box Alice Catherine	Avenue Terrace
148	R	—	Bradley Harry Frank	c/o Mrs. Mullins, High Street
149	O	O	Bradley Julia Ann	Gloucester Road
150	R	—	Brain Edwin Charles	The Walnuts
151	R	O	Brain Joseph Edwin	The Walnuts
152	HO	HO	Brain Cecelia Maud	The Walnuts
153	O	O	Brain Sarah	Gloucester Road
154	R	—	Bridgeman Arthur Charles	The Vicarage
155	R	O	Brinkworth Geoffry	Oldends
156	R	O	Brotheridge Edgar	Police Station
157	HO	HO	Brotheridge Julia Grace	Police Station
158	R	O	Brown Albert Edgar	Woodcock Lane
159	HO	HO	Brown Lucy Agnes	Woodcock Lane
160	R	O	Brown George Francis	Gordon Terrace
161	HO	HO	Brown Hester Rhoda Smith	Gordon Terrace
162	R	O	Brown Henry Josiah	Woodcock Lane
163	HO	HO	Brown Annie	Woodcock Lane
164	NM	—	αBrown John Robert Francis	1 Gordon Terrace
165	R	O	Brown Thomas Bartlett	Gloucester Road
166	HO	HO	Brown Ruth	Gloucester Road
167	R	O	Brunsdon Arthur William—J	Ryeford
168	—	O	†Brunsdon Charles	Land, Ryeford (Abode—Ebley)
169	R	—	Brunsdon Henry Lewis	Ryeford

1926 electoral register for the parish of Stonehouse

A couple of interesting items that remain from this period are Frank's sketch of Gloucester Cathedral, drawn in 1924, and a 'hearty congratulations' card, presumably drawn in the same period: indications of his potential artistic talents at that time.



Harry Frank Bradley's sketch of Gloucester Cathedral, 1924.



Frank's "Hearty Congratulations" card, c.1924

It was some time in the latter half of the 1920s that Frank met his future wife, Mary Frances Peter. Mary and her father, James Peter, had recently moved west from Hertfordshire to Coaley in Gloucestershire, after the death of James's wife, Elizabeth Williamson, in 1922. Mary, who had trained as a poultry farmer, took over the running of Waterend Farm (the 'Coaley Poultry Farm'), while her father worked as an income tax collector.

We are fortunate enough to have an eye-witness account of their first meeting thanks to the foresight of Frank's youngest daughter Bridget who, in 1991, asked her godmother, Tess Dressler, to write about her role as matchmaker for Frank and Mary. The following is an excerpt from Tess's letter.

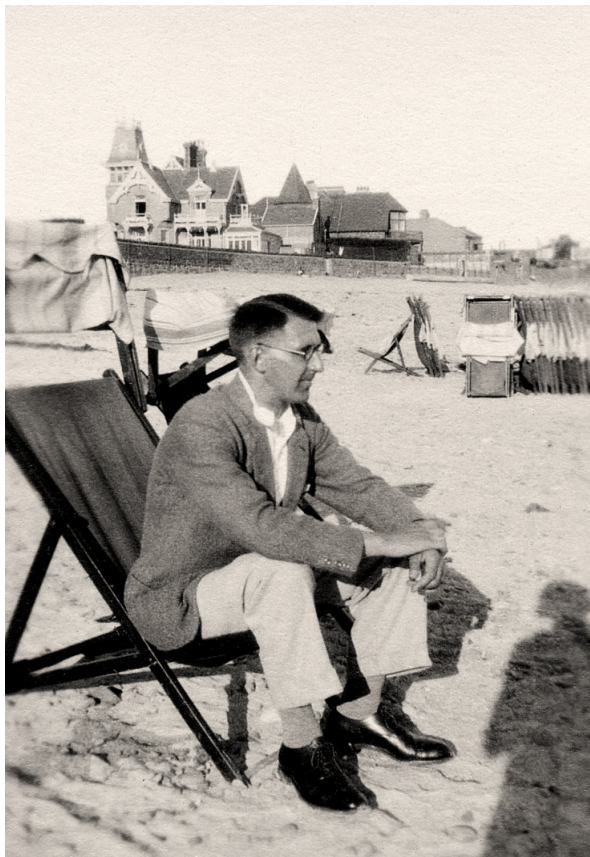
While working for your mother in the 1920's I used to spend my half days riding over to Stonehouse to visit friends of mine at Horse Marling Farm, sometimes going to a village hop or dance so would take a frock, stay the night and rode back before 7.00 a.m. next morning. On one of these occasions, I left a frock behind or thought it may have dropped off the bag behind the saddle. Being anxious about this, I asked your mother if she would phone Frank Bradley up and inquire if he could trace it, or someone had picked it up (Stonehouse in the 1920's was a village with the usual pub etc.) Your mother got through to your father and enquired about it. On putting the phone down, she remarked to me, "What a lovely speaking voice your friend has." I replied, "Want to meet him? We'll fix up something." Now at that time, your mother's cousin, David Burnett, and I were seeing quite a lot of each other, with both your grandfather and mother's approval (this is another story in itself). However, we planned that your mother should bring David in her car and I'd get Kath and Percy to join us with your

father. David and I kept our fingers crossed that they would get on. We all met at the Palace of Dance in Gloucester. It worked - your mother drove Kath and Percy back to Stonehouse and then returned to fetch David and myself. While David and I were saying good-night, your mother and father were left a few minutes in the car, about 50 yards up the road. Next time I saw David he said, "I think Mary and Brad have hit it off, Mary had her hat off when I got back to the car." I've never forgotten those words.



Mary Frances Peter on the "Coaley Poultry Farm", c.1927

Frank was always a great lover of the outdoor life and enjoyed nothing more than a picnic in the country or a day at the beach, as can be seen from this small selection of photos taken during his courtship period.





On 12th January 1928, Frank's mother died and his father moved in with his son-in-law, George Nicol the draper, the husband of Frank's eldest sister, Mabel Jessie.

That same year, for reasons no longer known, there was a significant Bradley family reunion.



Bradley family reunion, c.1928

The following year, on 12th June 1929, Frank and Mary were married in the parish church of Kingscote in Gloucestershire. The official witnesses were James Peter, Mary's father, and Marjorie Burnett, Mary's cousin. Frank was 33 years old and Mary 31.

B 81157

The following are the only persons who are entitled to be registered in the Register of Marriages and to be the subject of a marriage certificate.

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF MARRIAGE.
Pursuant to the Marriage Acts, 1836 to 1898.

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]

M. Cort. Church.

Registration District **Tetbury**

1929 Marriage Solemnized at **The Parish Church** of **Kingscote** in the Parish of **Kingscote** in the County of **Gloucestershire**

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
136	June 12 th 1929	Harry Frank Bradley	33	Bachelor	Out-Fitter	Kingscote	George Bradley	Grocer (Retired)
		Mary Frances Peter	31	Spinster	-	Lantern Cross, Glouc.	James Peter	Escheat Agent

Married in the **Parish Church** according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the **Established Church** by **Sergeant R. P. [Signature]** or after **Banns** by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, **Harry Frank Bradley** and **Mary Frances Peter** in the presence of **James Peter** and **Marjorie Burnett** as witnesses.

I, **Sergeant R. P. [Signature]**, of **Kingscote**, in the County of **Gloucestershire**, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. **136** in the Register Book of Marriages of the said Church, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

WITNESS MY HAND this **11th** day of **June**, 1929.

The Act 3 & 4 Geo. V., c. 27, section 2, enacts that "FORFEITURE of the following documents, if transmitted with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be FLEET and punishable with Penal Servitude for any term not exceeding seven years:—any register or record of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, Burials, which now is, or hereafter may be, by law authorized or required to be kept in the United Kingdom, relating to any Birth, Baptism, Marriage, Death, Burial, or any part of any such Register, or any limited Copy of any such Register, or of any part thereof."

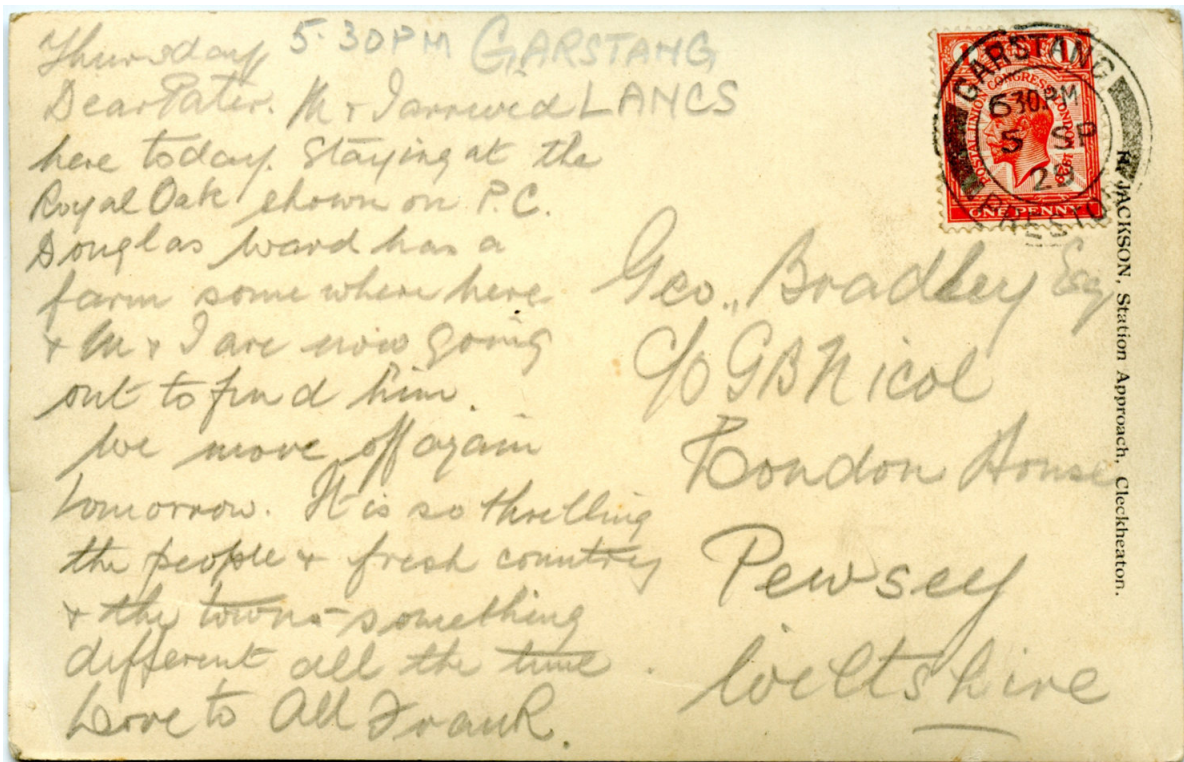
State "Rector," "Vicar," or "Curate."

Frank and Mary's marriage certificate, 12 June 1929



Frank and Mary, 1929

A postcard sent from Garstang in Lancashire on the 5th September 1929, would seem to indicate a late honeymoon, perhaps so as not to interfere with the summer sales at the shop.



On 23rd October 1930, the first of Frank and Mary's two daughters, Gillian Mary Bradley, was born, followed on the 3rd July 1934 by Bridget Elizabeth Bradley.



It was during this period, in the first half of the 1930s, that Mullins took over the larger shop on the opposite corner of Regent Street and Frank took over the original Mullins shop, changing the name to Bradleys.



This must have happened in the first half of the decade because the 1935 edition of Kelly's trade directory already shows Frank as an independent "outfitter".

314 STONEHOUSE.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

[KELLY'S

Goodwin G. P. N., M.A. (master of Wycliffe college), Hilby, Pearcroft road
 Heard Rev. Arthur (minister of Bethel chapel), 6 Regent street
 Kimmins James Charles Clegg M.B.E., J.P. Cotswold grange
 Loosley S. G. H., M.A. (master), Wycliffe college
 Mace Rev. David R., B.A., B.Sc. (Methodist), Brightville house, Great Western road
 Mace Albert William, The Lawn
 McFarlan William M., M.D. High st
 Mackay Rev. Gordon E. (Congregational), The Laburnhams
 McLannahan James Gunn, The Mount, Regent street
 Piper J. G. Laburnham
 Prout Edward de Carle M.D. Edin. Elgin lodge, High street
 Pryce Rhys Ellys (master of Wycliffe college), Hopelands, Regent street
 Read G. L., M.C., M.A. (master of Wycliffe college), Cable cottage, Berry field
 Rowell Eric John, South Berry field
 Sibly Thomas Mervyn M.A. (bursar of Wycliffe college), The Grove
 Sibly W. Arthur M.A., J.P. (head master of Wycliffe college), Springfield, Wycliffe college
 Smart Ernest L., Moira, High street
 Smith Hedley C. Pendennis, St. Cyril's road
 Thuy P. (master of Wycliffe college), Cambray lodge, Regent street
 Timpson George Frederick M.A. (master of Wycliffe college), Maidenhill house
 Triggs Mrs. Holmleigh, High street
 Turl Mrs. Smallbrooks, Gloucester road
 Ward R. Victor M.A. (master of Wycliffe college), Hopelands, Regent street
 Winterbotham Arthur Strachan, Stonehouse court

COMMERCIAL.

Early closing day, Thursday.
 Alder Wm. butcher, High st. T N 101
 Aldridge Lilian (Mrs.), beer retr. Bath rd
 Beard Wm. & Son, bldrs. High st. T N 105
 Bird Doris (Mrs.), shopkpr
 Blackwell P. decrtr. T N 226
 Black Andrew Robert & Son, builders, Queen's rd. T N 254
 Box Alice (Mrs.), shopkpr. 7 Avenue ter
 Bradley Harry Frank, outfitter. T N 208
 Bridge Garage (Fredk. V. Smith). T N 140
 British Legion (Stonehouse branch) (A. Wentworth Smith, sec.), Queen's rd
 Brown Rt. A. baker, High st
 Burnett Eugénie (Mrs.), dress maker
 Burton Stores (Joseph Burton & Sons Ltd proprs.), grocers, High st. T N 190
 Caincross & Ebbey Co-operative Society Ltd. (No. 1 branch), grocers & drapers, High street. T N 159
 Carter Alfd. Hy. hairdrrsr. High st
 Chandler Wlfr. & Sons, provsn. mers. High st. T N 181
 Chandler Sidney, farmer
 Cousins Frederick, carpenter
 Crown & Anchor Commercial Hotel (Jn. W. Andrews). T N 185
 Davenport C. B. Ltd. wines & spirits, High st. T N 171
 Davis Lily (Mrs.), confctnr. High st
 Davis Wm. G. printer, High st
 Eastmans Ltd. butchers, High st. T N 121
 Ford Annie (Mrs.), haulier, Regent st
 French Ella (Miss), ladies' school, Regent st

Gardiner & Son, motor engns. High st. T N 162
 Gardner Charles H. boot repairer, Gloucester road
 Goddard Hy. C. shopkpr. Gloucester rd
 Goodman Sidney J. draper, Regent st
 Hale Wm. farmer, Bridgend
 Hamblett Chas. L. butcher, High st
 Harrison & James, bakers, High st
 Hill Jas. Wm. fruiter. Bath rd
 Hillier's Bacon Curing Co. Ltd. provsn. dlrs. High st
 Hooper Chas. & Sons Ltd. woollen cloth mfrs. Eastington mill. T N 252
 Horsham's, china dlrs. High st
 Hubbard Bros. nurserymen, Bridgend & Bath rd. T N 232
 Jones Emelia (Mrs.), district midwife, Nurse's cott. Bath rd
 Johnson E. registrar of births & deaths for Stonehouse sub-district (attends wed. 6 to 7 p.m.)
 Kirby J. Gilbt. dentist (attends 1 p.m. thurs.), High st
 Lloyds Bank Ltd. (open mon. wed. & fri. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) (Lionel Cape, mgr.); head office, 71 Lombard st. London E C 3
 Love Albt. Wm. Ship inn, The Wharf
 McFarlan Wm. M., M.D., Ch.B. Edin. physcn. & surgn. High st. T N 144
 McLannahan James Gunn L.R.O.P. & S. L.M. Irel. surgeon, & medical officer & public vaccinator No. 2 district, Strond Guardians Committee & medical officer & public vaccinator Haresfield district, Gloucester Guardians Committee, The Mount, Regent street. T N 145
 Mayo Annie (Mrs.), shopkpr. High st
 Mills Mary (Mrs.), fried fish dlr. High st
 Moody F. W. Ltd. fishmngs. Bath rd
 Moore Gladys Winifred (Mrs.), confectioner, tobacconist & lending library, High street
 Mullins Store, draper, High st. T N 182
 National Provincial Bank Ltd. (agency) (W. L. Oakes, mgr.) (open fri. 11.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.); head office, 15 Bishopsgate, London E C 2
 Neville W. (Mrs.), confctnr
 Newish Private Hotel (Mrs. S. J. Newish, proprietress), Great Western rd. T N 151
 Nicholls David, hairdrrsr
 Norris J. Lapage & Sons, solctrs. 2 Great Western rd. (attend wed. 3 to 6 p.m.)
 O'Neill Ellen (Miss), confctnr. Queen's rd
 Palmer Samuel, boot maker, High st
 Parker Bramwell, tailor. T N 210
 Payne Geo. boot repr. Queen's rd
 Perkins Gilbt. grocer, Bath rd
 Perkins Hy. motor garage
 Phillimore Howard Vincent, fish-mngr. & fruiter. High st
 Pickering E.A. (Mrs.), florist, High st
 Piggott Lisle Wm. tailor, Queen's rd
 Pile William E. saddler
 Pitt Leslie Albt. hairdrrsr. Bath rd
 Poole Arth. hardware dlr. Regent st
 Preedy Albert, chimney sweeper
 Preedy Edwd. C. watch repr. Regent st
 Price Charles John, beer retailer
 Prout Edward de Carle M.D., C.M. Edin. physician & surgeon, & medical officer to Post office & to Wheatenhurst Institution, Elgin lodge, High street. T N 147
 Regal Cinema (The) (Arth. Stratford)
 Rogers Charles, watch maker
 Severn Valley Dairy Products Co. High street
 Sireth Alfd. blacksmith
 Smith E. M. upholsterer, St. Cyril's rd
 Stephens J. E. & H. smiths
 Stephens Walter, shopkpr. Regent st

Stonehouse Brick & Tile Co. Ltd.

(Arthur W. Anderson, manager), manufacturers of rustic, sandfaced & other kinds of building bricks; also bricketts for fireplaces &c. Telegrams, "Bricks, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire;" Telephone No. 258
 Stonehouse Electric Co. (D. Addy & W. G. Addington proprs.), electrl. engns. Bath rd
 Stonehouse Paper & Bag Mills Ltd. paper mfrs. Lower mills. T A
 "Lower Mills;" T N 173
 Stroud Mutual Benefit Building Society (Jn. Hy. Anderson, local agt.), St. Cyril's rd
 Subscription Rooms (Percy Horsham, hon. sec)
 Tanner Danl. Edwd. rate collector for Stonehouse, clerk to the Parish Council & income tax collector for Rodborough & Tetbury, Regent st
 Taylor Eliza (Mrs.), Woolpack P.H.
 Tilley J. & Son, hauliers, 2 Regent st
 Timbrell Emilia (Miss), bookseller, stationer, newsagent & circulating library, High street. T N 195
 Townsend Philip, plumber
 Vowles W. H. & Sons Ltd. brush mfrs. T N 150
 Wager Fras. Hy. clerk to the Standish Parish Council, Hope cott
 Wall L. M. (Miss), shopkpr. High st
 Ward E. T. & Son Ltd. coal & coke merchants, Canal wharf
 White Rt. Fredk. beer retr. High st
 Wilcox Cecil Elsom M.P.S. chemist, High st. T N 184
 Wood & Rowe, coal merchants, Railway stations
 Wycliffe College (W. A. Sibly M.A., J.P. head master & house master). T N 223

HAYWARDSFIELD.

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.

(For T N's see general list of Private Residents at end of book.)
 Addenbrooke Mrs. Merton lodge
 Bevan E. J., M.A. (master of Wycliffe college)
 Butt Frederick, Springfield
 Hack Henry Stanley, Springbank
 Jefferies Miss
 Luker Mrs. The Tynings
 Stanton Miss, Oakfields
 Thomas William Alfred, Rose lawn

COMMERCIAL.

Jefferies Samuel & Sons Ltd. brick & tile makers. T N 133

OLDEND.

COMMERCIAL.

Baker Fredk. Jn. beer retr.
 Price Brothers, farmers

RYEFORD.

PRIVATE RESIDENT.

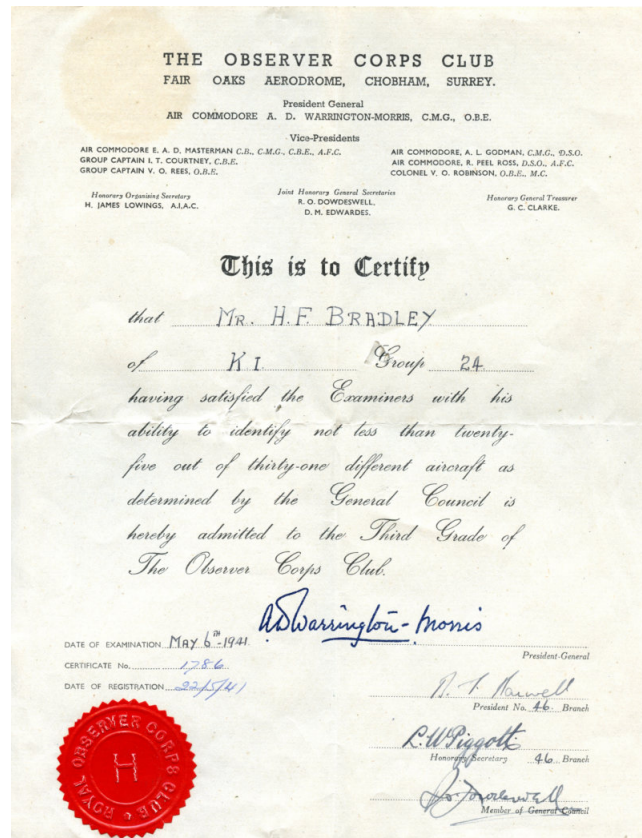
(For T N see general list of Private Residents at end of book.)
 Alcock R. (master), Ryeford hall
 Bird K. O., M.A. (headmaster of Ryeford hall), Ryeford lodge
 Evans R. B., M.A. (master), Ryeford hall
 Kinnains D.A., B.A. (master), Ryeford hall
 Wright Miss M., M.A. (mistress), Ryeford hall

COMMERCIAL.

Brunsdon Arth. beer retr. T N
 Stonehouse 260
 Price Jn. & Son, nurserymen. T N
 Stonehouse 160
 Ryeford Junior School (K. C. Bird M.A. Lincoln College, Oxford, master), Ryeford hall
 Ryeford Saw Mills Co. english timber merchants, & steam saw mills. T N Stonehouse 164
 Wood & Rowe, coal mers. Railway stn

1939-1945

When the Second World War broke out, and the British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, delivered his *Ultimatum Speech* on 3rd September 1939, Frank was too old for active service and made his contribution to the war effort by joining the Royal Observer Corps, K.I. Group 24, who manned an observation point at Wycliffe College, Stonehouse.



The men who watched the skies. This is the Royal Observer Corps, K.I. Group 24, who manned an observation point at Wycliffe College, Stonehouse. Its members mostly came from Stroud and Stonehouse. The picture comes from Mr Thomas Round-Smith, of Tetbury, whose father is third from the right in the middle row.

On Tuesday May 8th 1945, in the early hours of the morning on the day of Germany's surrender, Frank wrote a long letter to his elder daughter, Gillian, from the observation point on the roof of Wycliffe College.

On the roof at K. 1.

Stonchouse.

Time 5.10 Am. Tuesday
May 8. 1945.

My dear Gillian.

The war in Europe is over and Mr Churchill is to broadcast at 3 pm today. So this is in all probability the last all night duty I shall do here, after six years.

It will be a day of Thanksgiving, rejoicing and for many, one of sadness. I have been doing duty with Mr Wood (Algy) & he has recently had news that his son is missing. He was a fighter pilot & was seen to have been shot down over Germany. There is of course a hope that he may have landed safely. Let us hope this is so.

We are having a Thanksgiving service at Trinity Church to night at 8 pm & I expect we shall all go.

We went to Church on Sunday morning & spent the rest of the day at home. I did quite a lot of jobs in the garden. I have a dozen new Chrysanthemums

11
Plants which I put out in the garden
& also took up my old plants & broke
them up & transplanted the best of
the new young shoots. With luck I
should have a very nice collection
this autumn, & I hope some of them
will be out when you are home.

The frost has done a certain
amount of damage to the fruit causing
a lot of the gooseberries & currants to
fall. However I think there will
still be a good supply left. The
apples seem to be unaffected, as far
as we can see at present.

I was not able to get my
Violet plants from Devon. It was too
late. I think I might get a few plants
locally as I have an address & shall
make enquiries. Grandpa & I went to
bowls last Thursday but it came on
to rain so there was no play.

John Watson is at home & has
measles. He was getting better when we
enquired on Sunday. Bridget is still

working for her ¹¹1st Class Test & is busy at
the moment knitting a pair of Baby Mitts.
She seems to be determined to pass the test.
& I think will do so. She is behaving very
well just now.

I tried to get some sleep
between 11 A.M. & three but at about
midnight there was a terrible din
in the place. A band of youths & girls
seemed to be parading the place with
drums & bugles & singing so all hopes
of slumber departed. I have been busy
since three doing my wholesale accounts
which I have finished, now I am waiting
by you. So I have not wasted my time.

I shall go down to the shop
to day for an hour or so & see to my post
& probably close down until Thursday
morning. I wish you could be home
with us. No doubt you will have
a programme for the Peace Celebrations.
I hope you will have a happy time with
your friends. Mr Stewart is still busy
with his model ship. I saw the plans of

the Golden Hind the other evening, but
Mr Stewart had not received the detailed
instructions for making them. It is a
very intricate job & I shall think
twice before attempting it myself.

I shall be glad when we can
get some good ply wood & composition
boards again as one cannot do much
without good materials to work with.

It is just beginning to get light
& the birds are singing. I love the
early morning in the summer time.
I shall quite miss these spells on
the roof. It is quite enjoyable to be
alone for a few hours & to do all sorts
of jobs & to settle down & write to you.

There is a peculiar fascination about
very early morning in the summer.

There is talk of Basic Petrol
being issued again so with luck
it is quite likely Mummy & I will
be able to motor up to see you in June.
I shall have to get my car overhauled
in readiness for the trip. I have just

Paused to look out & listen to the birds.
There seems to be a chorus of hundreds.

What a marvellous start for
the day of peace celebration. Everything
seems so wonderful, so hopeful. I wish
you could look out on the scene with me.
As you have been on the roof here you
can picture it. Just step outside the
hut door with me. It is just light
There is a dampness everywhere & it is
cool. There is silence except for the
bird noises. Maat Rind has ~~not~~ awakened
yet to start his less harmonious
sounds. No trains or cars or
aeroplanes. Just fresh air & peace
& birds chirruping. This is one of
the beautiful moments. When one is
happy with ones thoughts and ones
hopes. I will leave you for now
Gillian, at the beginning of a new day,
of peace & the hope of a long period
of happiness. Goodbye my love
Yours Dad. xxx.

1946-1956

With the war over, life returned to its normal routine again, and picnics in the country, the arrival of grandnieces and grandnephews, and walks in the park became the order of the day.



Family picnic, c.1946



Frank & Mary with their daughters, Gill and Bridget, and a new grandniece/grandnephew, c.1946



Frank, Mary and daughter Bridget, c.1951

It was during this period that Frank bought a second gentlemen's outfitter shop in the nearby town of Nailsworth and also took on a number of community commitments in his hometown of Stroud.

From 1946 to 1955 he held the post of Vicar's warden at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud.

He was vice-president of the Holy Trinity Chrysanthemum Society and was also a power behind the formation of the Trinity Players.

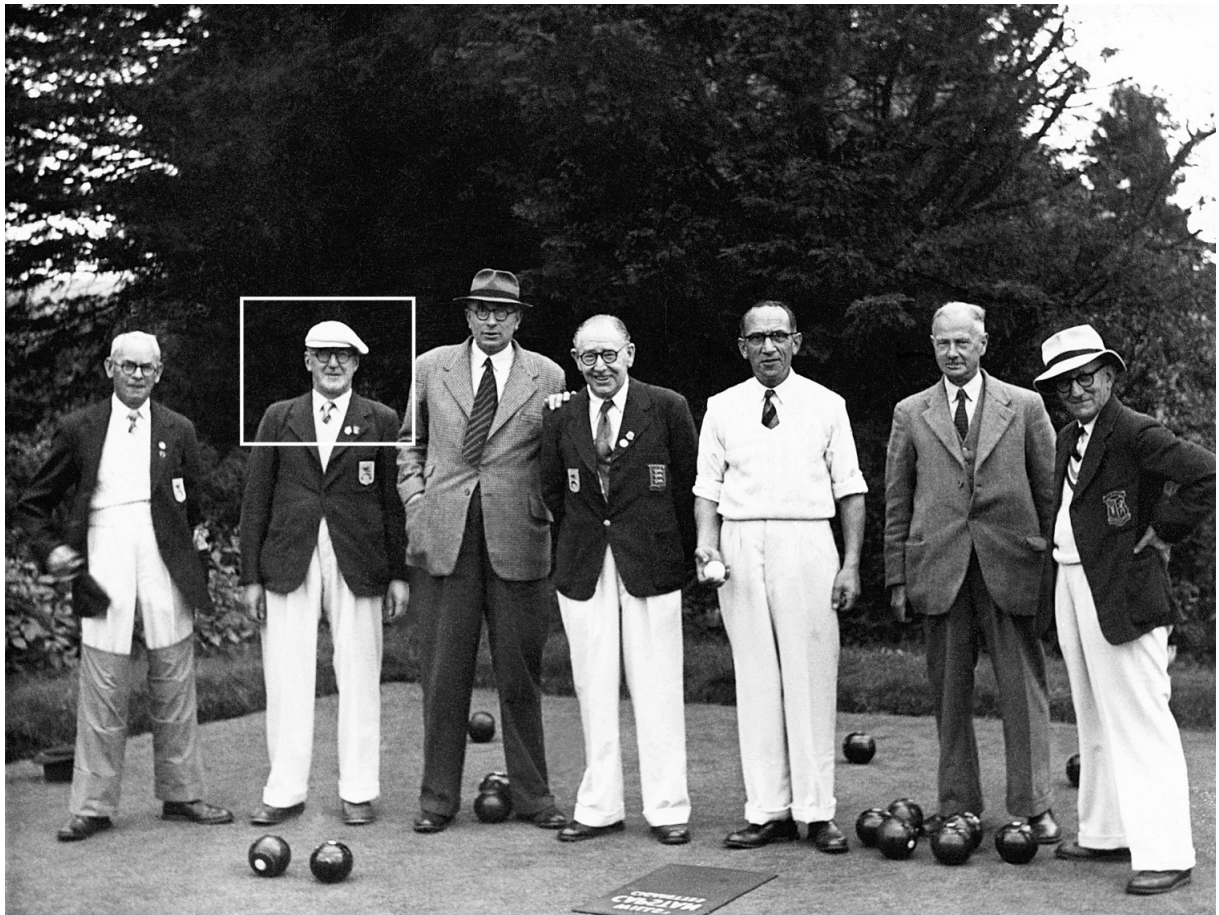
As a member of the Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council, he was to the forefront in the campaign for the church memorial gates to commemorate those who fell in the Second World War.

He was president of the Stroud Chamber of Trade in 1953-54, and president of the Stroud Rotary Club in 1954-55.



Frank and Mary at the Rotary Club President's Ball, 1954

Frank was also a very keen bowler and was a member of the Falcon Club and the Cotswold Strollers.



c.1954

Towards the end of 1955, Frank's health took a turn for the worse as he started to suffer from giddy turns at the shop and was feeling unusually tired. At the beginning of February, his doctor ordered him to stay at home and have a complete rest, and on Sunday 5th February, the family sent a telegram to his younger daughter Bridget who was on holiday in France at the time, telling her to come home immediately as Frank had suffered a severe stroke and was seriously ill. By the end of that week, Frank was virtually paralysed in bed. Notwithstanding the constant nursing and an apparent partial recovery during the month of February, Frank fell unconscious on Wednesday 22nd February and finally passed away peacefully on Saturday 25th February, just before midnight.



WWI MEDALS, SCHOOL POETRY MEDAL (1909), ROTARY CLUB BADGES



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH STROUD.



IN MEMORIAM

HARRY FRANK BRADLEY

PASSED AWAY

FEBRUARY 25th 1956.



Memorial Service Wednesday February 29th 1956