

Grave of the Month

FRANK CHIVERS (1896 – 1912)

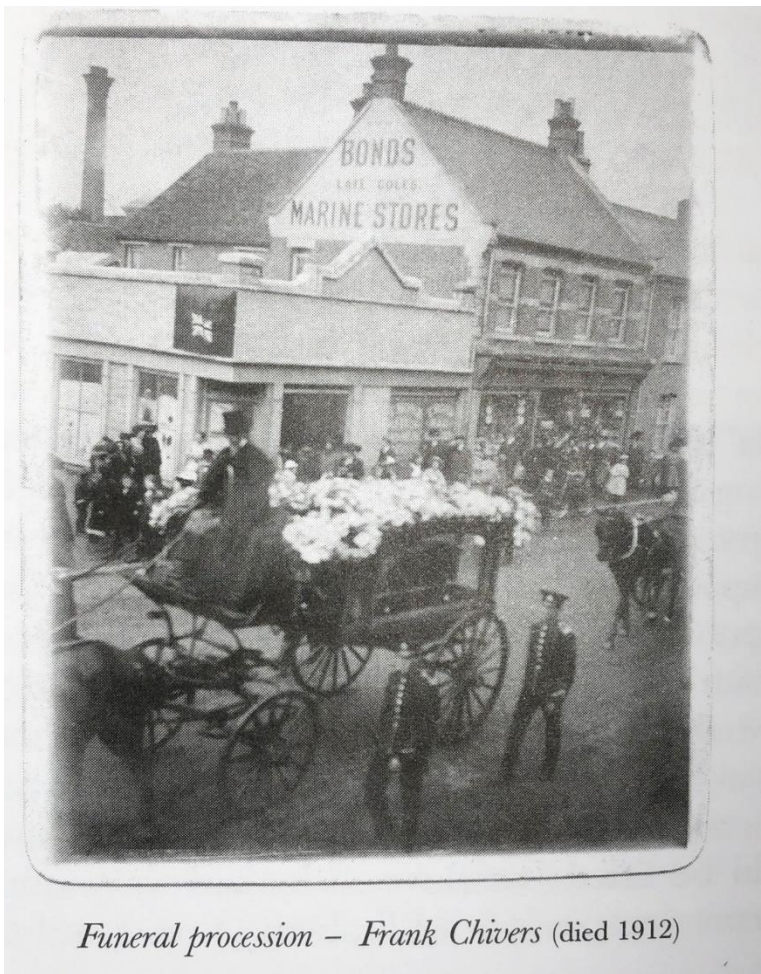
Frank was the second son of George, a baker, and Elizabeth Chivers. On the 1911 census he was living with his parents in Pembroke Road.

Frank had won a scholarship to Newbury Grammar School. His ambition was to reach a senior level where he could wear a straw boater!

In the spring of 1912, he was working at the Town Mills delivering sacks of flour and had just taken a large and very weighty sack on his back to load onto the trap, when the driver became impatient and sent him reeling with a kick from his boot, with the result that the sack swung round wrenching Frank's body as he resisted the blow and tried to keep hold of it. Over the next few weeks, he suffered terrible agonising pain was sent to London's St. Bartholomew's hospital where sadly he died.

The Territorials of which Frank was such a dedicated member playing the drums, proposed that he be honoured with a military funeral, which was reported in the Newbury Weekly News. It is very unusual to have a photo of a funeral.

Sylvia Sellwood



Funeral procession – Frank Chivers (died 1912)