

Frederick George Cole, 6 The Pollards



Rank	Driver T/5496986
Regiment	37 th Reserve Mechanical Transport Company Royal Army Service Corps
Date of death	10 th May 1942
Died	Drowned after ship was torpedoed
Buried	Lost at sea, commemorated on the Alamein Memorial
Age at death	26
Marital status	Married to Irene with one daughter, also Irene.
Address	6 The Pollards, Bentley

Frederick George Cole, known as George, was the eldest of 12 children born to Frederick George Cole (senior) and Annie Rose Chandler of The Pollards in **1915**. He married Irene Boorman in **1939** and they had a young daughter, Irene, the following year.

In July **1939**, a tank crashed into the wall of his parents' house in The Pollards. This remarkable accident received considerable publicity in the national Press. Fortunately, no-one was injured, but several people had very narrow escapes. A line of tanks had been proceeding towards Farnham, when one of the vehicles suddenly swung out of the rank, mounted the kerb and a wide grass verge, and smashed into the wall, completely demolishing several yards of brickwork. The tank was twisted almost out of recognition, and pieces of brick and turf were scattered far and wide. The accident was apparently caused by a defect in one of the tracks of the tank.



Tank accidentally crashed into the front wall of The Pollards in 1939



Frederick was a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps. This unit was responsible for keeping the British Army supplied with provisions, petrol and lubricants, fuel and light, hospital supplies and disinfectants. It was also responsible for the conveyance of the supplies by road, rail, and sea together with ammunition, engineer stores, ordnance stores and post to all units of a field force.

He drowned after his ship was torpedoed in **1942**. His youngest sister, Audrey, was only 7 and remembers when the telegram came for his parents. He is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial which forms the entrance to the El Alamein War Cemetery in Egypt. The memorial commemorates nearly 12,000 servicemen of the British Empire who died in the Western Desert campaigns of the Second World War including the Battle of El Alamein.

From Bentley Parish Magazine, August 1942

“George Cole, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Cole, of the Pollards, is “missing, believed drowned,” on active service. Our sincere sympathy to his young widow and his parents.”