

McCATHY, Arthur,

Horatio Josiah Arthur McCarthy was born on 9 January 1899 – his birth registered at Woolwich. He was the son of Horatio William McCarthy and Annie Elizabeth Reynolds.

In 1901 he was living at Rock House, Membury. The householder was John Robert Reynolds, a pensioned Inspector Metropolitan Police and Assistant Overseer (born Gravesend, Kent in 1833). Also in the household was his wife Maria (born Bilton, Yorkshire in 1833), their daughter Maria (35), their son John R L (37) an Ironmongers Assistant, his wife Ellen Reynolds (33), and their children May (7) Donald (5) and Freda (3). Arthur McCarthy is listed as Robert Reynolds' grandson – aged 2.

In 1911, Arthur aged 12, was still living at Rock House, with his grandparents and aunt, Maria.

On 26 January 1916, when he was only 17, he joined the Royal Naval Air Service. ADM 188/610/25486. He was an engineer. His service record shows that he was 5' 7" with dark hair and grey eyes. He gave his next of kin as his aunt Maria at Rock. By 1919 only Maria was listed in Kelly's directory. So by 1917, Arthur's grandparents may have moved or died (they would have been 73).

Arthur began his service at 'Grains', Chingford as an Acting Air Mechanic and a year later became an air Mechanic. When the Royal Flying Corps (both army and navy sections) combined into the newly formed Royal Air Force, Arthur was transferred to it. He transferred from 'Grain' to Halton on 26 January 1920. Then discharged and went into the RAF reserve on 23 February 1920.

In spring 1956, aged 56, he married Marjorie Pattison, in Ealing, London, and died in 1994, aged 95 in Scarborough, Yorkshire.