



Name:	2/Lt Aganoor John AGANOOR 1/17th (Co. of London) (Poplar and Stepney Rifles)		
Age			
AKA:	Jack AGANOOR, John AGANOOR		
Parents:	Petrus Basil AGANOOR (born about 1857 in Batavia, JAVA - died 25 Nov 1898 in Brentford, MDX, ENG) and Mabel Frances BURNET (BURNETT) (born about 1865 in Ditchling, SSX, ENG - died in Jul 1931)		
25	Life Range	29 Aug 1891- 15 Sep 1916	
Marriage Status:	This person never married and had no children		
--34	Abt 1857	Birth of Father:	Petrus Basil AGANOOR (born about 1857 in Batavia, JAVA - died 25 Nov 1898 in Brentford, MDX, ENG). In Batavia, JAVA.
--26	Abt 1865	Birth of Mother:	Mabel Frances BURNET (BURNETT) (born about 1865 in Ditchling, SSX, ENG - died in Jul 1931). In Ditchling, SSX, ENG.
0	29 Aug 1891	Birth:	Feltham, Middlesex, ENG.
7	25 Nov 1898	Death of Father:	Petrus Basil AGANOOR (born about 1857 in Batavia, JAVA - died 25 Nov 1898 in Brentford, MDX, ENG).
10	1901	Census:	Westhampnett, Sussex. "Harrow House": Aganoor John AGANOOR , pupil, 9, born Feltham Middlesex <i>RG13 piece 965 folio 17 page 26</i> Note: In 1901 his mother Mabel, a widow, was living at 10 Bishop's Park Mansions, Fulham with her parents John and Frances BURNET who were both "living on own means". His sisters Kathleen and Margaret age 10 and 7 respectively were then pupils at St Margaret's College East Grinstead, Sussex.
10	1901-1907	School:	Christ's Hospital School. West Horsham. Also Harrow House, Bognor, Sussex
20	1911	Census:	Lewisham, KEN, ENG. 27 West Hill Sydenham SE: Jack AGENOOR (sic), Boarder, 19, Bank Clerk & Part Time Student <i>[Residence of Daniel Lambert; RG14PN2813 RG78PN96 RD29 SD4 ED7 SN30]</i> NOTE: In 1911 his mother was living in Steyning Sussex, Manageress of Residential Flats at 22 Gwydyr Mansions Hove. His sister Kathleen, age 20, an Actress, was a boarder at a residence in Waltham Green, Fulham. His sister Margaret was a boarder at 212 Portsdown Rd, Paddington age 17 and "at school". She does not appear to be related to anyone in that household.
23	Aug 1914	Address:	London, ENG. 7 Princes Garth(?) Forest Hill SE
22	5 Aug 1914	Enlistment:	Queens Hall.

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23	1 Nov 1914	Overseas:	Home 2 Dec 1915, returned May 1916.
24	3 Dec 1915	Commission:	
25	15 Sep 1916	Death:	France. Killed in Action.
25	15 Sep 1916	Cause of Death:	Attack, No-Man's Land. Situation: Attack Circumstances: No Man's Land, High Wood Bn Diary: '2 coys in frontline and 2 coys in portion of Chester St running SE from junction of Chester St and Randall Ave. These 2 reserve coys moved up at 12 midnight to be in position at 1am for attack ... At 6.20am ... the Bn launched an attack in 4 waves on a platoon frontage, with the object of taking the first 2 lines of trenches and constructing a strong point for 1 platoon and 2 Vickers guns at M.34.D.11 (illeg). Enemy met attack with very heavy machine gun fire and attack was held up for nearly 3 hours. Later a fresh assault was made and all our objectives occupied at 10.30am.'
		Burial:	Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France. Re-interred. Inscription: " <i>I shall remember while the light lasts and in the darkness I shall not forget</i> ".
28	1919	Next of Kin:	Mother. Medals to Mrs Aganoor, 6 Arnold Mansions, Queens Club Gardens, W. Kensington. [Previously at 3 Sion Hill, Clifton, Bristol.]
		Siblings:	Mabel Kathleen [Kathleen] AGANOOR , born 28 June 1890, baptised 31 July 1890 Christchurch, Lewisham. Father Petrus - Java Merchant. [<i>London Births & Baptisms</i>]; she married Alfred M. GARRETT in Rochford, Essex in 1915. [http://www.thepeerage.com/p29980.htm]; address 1916 22 Christchurch Road, Southend on Sea. Margaret Cicely AGANOOR , born about 1894 Worthing, Essex. Did not marry, died 10 April 1963. [http://www.thepeerage.com/p29980.htm]; address 1916 'Akabo' Princess Crescent, Lyndhurst, Hants.
		CWGC Register:	Son of the late Petrus Basil Aganoor and Mabel Frances Aganoor (now Countess Annesley, of Frilsham, near Hermitage, Berks).
		CWGC Inscription:	I Shall Remember While the Light Lasts and in the Darkness I shall not Forget.
		Personal File:	374/453.
		Ranker Unit:	London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) Pvte 1770, 1/16th.
		Effects:	Yes.
		Father's Occupation:	COMM: MERCHANT: Java.
		Occupation:	CLERK: Bank (London & Westminster).
		Brothers:	Only Son.
		In Memoriams:	1917-30.

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	First Burial: Y:.
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	Memorials: Forest Hill St Paul, Lewisham
	Decorations: Star.
	Probate: Father. £25
<p>General Notes: Photo: Imperial War Museum</p> <p>His mother remarried Walter BERESFORD (Count ANNESLEY) in Hampshire, 1924.</p> <p>From Imperial War Museum: Aganoor enlisted in the Queen's Westminsters on outbreak of war in August 1914. He was posted to the Western Front in November 1914 where he served until receiving his commission in January 1916. He was killed in action at High Wood during the Battle of the Somme on 15 September 1916 and is buried at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval. Attached photograph presented by his mother, Mrs M F Aganoor (later Countess Annesley).</p> <p>From GWF (June-July 2008): Concerning Aganoor and Christ's Hospital - aka the 'Bluecoat School.' He was at the school from 1901 to 1907. When he joined in 1901 the school was split between two sites. The boys (only) upper school was in Newgate Street in the City of London, where it had been since 1553. The boy's prep school and the girls school for all ages was at Hertford. The boys upper school and the boys prep school moved to Horsham in Sussex in 1902. Thus, when he joined in 1901 Aganoor may have gone direct into the upper school or to Hertford, but in either case he would definitely have moved to Hoosham in 1902, where he was in a house known as Peele B. The only other info I have on him is that, according to the school's Record of Service, he died on 15 September 1916 whilst serving in the Royal Fusiliers as a Second Lieutenant. [<i>Petard249</i>]</p> <p>Thanks to <i>Petard249/David</i> for his excellent suggestion to go along to the Guildhall Library and look at Aganoor John's records for Christs Hospital which I did, they were both fascinating and moving. When his father died Aganoor John's mother was left with three children under the age of 10. *In the application to the school she wrote "having for ten years been in possession of a comfortable home, [I] was on the death of my husband left totally unprovided for, he having been ruined through ill health and misfortune". Her home had to be broken up, the furniture sold and she ended up working as a "lady nurse" on an annual income of £36. Having applied, passed the entrance exam, the medical, provided the necessary references and birth certificate and been successfully nominated, Aganoor John's family paid no fees for his schooling between 1901 and 1907. When he left in December 1907, he was articled to a solicitor in Horsham. [<i>Moriarty</i>]</p> <p>I managed to get to Kew and have a look at Aganoor John's file which answered a lot of my questions: He joined the Queen's Westminster Rifles, 16th Londons, on 5th August 1914, he was a bank clerk at the London County and Westminster Bank. The 16th went to France on 1st November. In August 1915 he completed an application form for "A candidate for appointment to a commission in the Territorial Force." The Regiment or Corps for which he was recommended was the 17th City of London, Poplar and Stepney Rifles.</p> <p>On 12 October 1915 there had been a request to the Officer Commanding the Queen's Westminster Rifles, BEF from JM Edwin, the Captain and Adjutant of the 3/17th Londons who were based at Tadworth saying "if you would be good enough to allow 1770 Rfn AJ Aganoor if he is successful in obtaining a commission, to be appointed to the unit under my command as I should like him for an officer in my regiment. "</p> <p>The forms all went through with the required references and medical form and he was interviewed. His commission to 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd/17th Londons was gazetted in early December and on 5th December he was discharged from the 16th (though his official period of service was later listed as 1st December 1915)</p> <p>Aganoor John returned to England on 27th December to join his new unit. It must have been during this time that he had the photograph taken that is now in the IWM archives and has been posted on this site. In May 1916 he left for France with them and then, as we know, he was killed in the attack on High Wood on 15th September 1916.</p> <p>Thanks to PBI for the photographs of Great Uncle Jack's grave, Aganoor John's file indicates that his body was moved as, in July 1920 Stopford of the IWGC wrote to his mother what is probably a standard letter about burial places. It said that there were many scattered graves and small cemeteries with less than 40 graves and there</p>	

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were cemeteries that were unsuitable for permanent retention so "it has been found necessary to exhume the bodies buried in certain areas. The body of 2nd Lieutenant AJ Aganoor has therefore been removed and re-buried in Caterpillar Valley cemetery, Longueval. I am to add that the necessity for the removal is much regretted, but was unavoidable for the reasons given above. You must rest assured that the work of re-burial has been carried out carefully and reverently, and special arrangements have been made for the appropriate religious service to be held.

Shortly after his Aganoor John's death his mother had enquired whether his identity disc had been found and the reply was that it had not. She wrote again in 1920 asking whether, following the exhumation of his body and re-burial, his identity disc had been found. Again the response was no. [*Moriarty*]

Note: There was an entry in the "In Memoriam" columns of the Times each September until 1930, when they ceased. His mother died in July 1931.

All was not as it seemed with the marriage of Walter ANNESLEY and his first wife Maud Fleming HIGGINSON.

They married in 1893. They had two children (both born in Ireland) but only one (a son Beresford who later became Earl) survived. They lived apart from at least 1901. By 1901 Maud was living with their son at 56, Rock Lane East, Birkenhead:

ANNESLEY, Maud F, Married, 27, born 1874 Nova Scotia ANNESLEY, Beresford C B, Son, 6, born 1895 Ireland

In 1901 Walter was visiting with his sister Lady Florence Proctor at 8, Cutcliffe Street, Bedford Western Ward St Paul, Bedfordshire (age 40, married)

In 1911 Maud was living alone in a 2 room apartment at 11 Cathedral Mansions Vauxhall Bridge Road SW:
ANNESLEY, Maud Fleming, Married 17 years, 35, born 1876, Court Dressmaker, born Halifax Nova Scotia

In 1911 Walter was a 'guest' at the Dalkeith Hotel in Bournemouth:
ANNESLEY, Walter Beresford, Visitor, Married, 50, born 1861, no occupation, born Eversley Hampshire

Walter became the 7th Earl ANNESLEY in 1914 and (despite the fact they continued to live apart) Maud appears to have warmed to her new status as Countess. (See attached photos of Maud and her son Beresford from the National Portrait Gallery - there are no photographs of Walter.) She does not, however, appear to have featured in the 'Social Pages' despite her new status. Most commonly the newspapers refer to 'Priscilla Countess Annesley' who was the young second wife of the 5th Earl and step-mother of the 6th Earl (photo attached).

Maud died in July 1923. Walter and Mabel (Aganoor nee Burnet) were married in January 1924.

Perhaps Walter was never comfortable with the title of Earl and he and Mabel knew each other (in the biblical sense) for a considerable time prior to the death of Walter's first wife - Countess No. 1.