

Great Uncle

CECIL SPENCE PARK: 1911-1960

Cecil was born in 1911 at 56 Palestine Street, Belfast under the name of **Cecil Richardson**. The facts around Cecil's early life remain unclear, but as a child his birth mother, Elizabeth Richardson Spence, was unable to look after him after what was likely to have been an affair outside of her marriage. A local woman, Rebecca Park (my Great Grandmother), took him in and brought him up as her own son. This was the days before formal adoptions, but his name was changed to Cecil Spence Park.

By all accounts a shy man, he was nevertheless a real 'character'. known for his wit, large cigars and the 'worst postal round in Belfast' (up and down the Shankill Road!). He always referred to Rebecca as 'Madame'.

Cecil spent many years in the military. He served as a signaller with the Royal Ulster Rifles seeing active service in Palestine. With the beginning of WW2 in 1939, his service was extended until the end of the War in 1945. Despite fighting at one of WW2's most famous battles (Dunkirk) he managed to avoid any injury before finally being demobbed.

On his return Cecil continued his job as a postman, but was sadly prone to bouts of ill-health. He died only 6 months after Rebecca on 6th July 1960 aged 49. He is buried alongside Rebecca in the Park family Grave in Belfast City cemetery.

Although not a 'blood relative', he was an integral part of the Belfast family of the time and was (and is) still remembered with great fondness by those who knew him.

***Cecil left a photographic collection of his time in Palestine in the 1930's. This will be added to the site in the near future.**

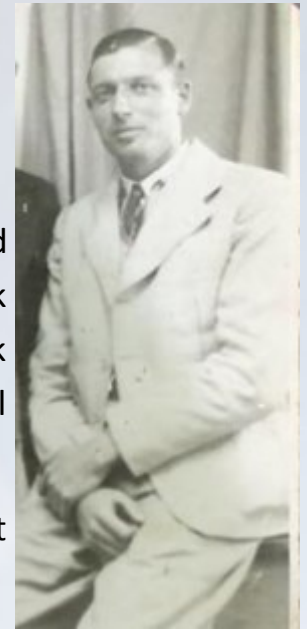


Photo: Modern day Riga Street, Belfast. An area between the Shankill and Crumlin Roads now dominated by new housing developments.

The Births and Deaths Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, Article 34



CERTIFIED COPY OF

AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

CP00023808

U/1911/52/1007/99/309

BIRTH registered in the District of Belfast Urban 6					Belfast		BK 99			
No.	Date and Place of Birth	Name (If any)	Sex	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth and Date
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
309	1911 Third January 56 Palestine St	Cecil Richardson	M	—	Elizabeth Richardson Spence # formerly a Cambric Ornamenter	—	Elizabeth Spence Fifth present at birth April 56 Palestine St	1911	<i>[Signature]</i> Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in a register in the custody of the Registrar General and given under the SEAL of the General Register Office, Belfast

this 15 June 2016

The Registrar General shall cause any certified copy of an entry given in the General Register Office to be stamped with the seal of the Office of which judicial notice shall be taken.



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