

Roll: **19250222-1853**

Camera: **Kodak Brownie 2A**

Format: **126**

Year: **1925** Month: **February**

Subject: Dad at 2 weeks old.

People:

Dad, Nana, Grandpa and Doff.

Notes:

My Dad (Frederick Wesley Fulford) was born on Monday 9th February 1925. Dad's mother and my Nana was Elsie Fulford, nee Hannett, married to Frederick John Fulford from Stoke Newington in London.

This set of four photographs was taken more than 100 years ago, when Dad was just two weeks old.

To give the birth some historical context in 1925 George V was in the ninth year of his reign, Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister and Churchill was Chancellor of the Exchequer. In January Mussolini declared himself Dictator of Italy. In April Churchill returned Britain to the gold standard, In July the first volume of Mein Kampf was published and in the States John Scopes was convicted in Tennessee of teaching evolutionism. In October, in London, John Logie Baird successfully transmitted the first television pictures. The Weir Committee proposed an Act to allow gas companies to supply electricity, the setting up of a National Grid and the establishment of Central Electricity Board. Ninety four percent of households still used gas or candles for lighting and there were no standards for the electricity that was supplied supplied to the few who were wealthy enough and brave enough to install it. It was a relatively good year weather wise for much of the year and some meteorologists assert that that June was the second driest month on record, only behind February 1891.

The first three photographs were, I think, taken in Queens Walk in the Meadows. It is a reasonable assumption that the location is outside number 134, which at that time was the family home. Elsie and Fred shared with her parents John Robert Hannett and Eliza Hannett, nee Booth. The 1921 census shows that Elsie's brother, Albert, former landlord of the Blue Bell in Clumber Street, lived there too. Sadly Dad would not have got to know his uncle as Albert died, at the age of just 45, later the same year.

Elsie was 34 and Frederick Wesley was her second child. This, I should not have been surprised to learn, was common enough in an age when women continued to give birth until the menopause.

My surprise at seeing that Dad had a nurse was dispelled by my brother, who identified the same as Dad's five year old sister Doff (Dorothy Elsie May Fulford) in a nurse's uniform. In the second frame the nurse appears to be differently dressed although the pictures to be taken within moments of each other. The explanation I think is that Nana took the previous shot and omitted to wind on the film. This also explains the disembodied head of Frederick senior, Frederick John Fulford, dad's dad, my grandad, floating above nurse.

Thankfully for Nana due to her confinement and those kitten heels, the the location for the fourth picture is just a few minutes away from 134, Victoria Embankment. It is possible that the picture was not taken the same day as those in Queens walk but I prefer to fancy that it was, Elsie's dress is the same although the shoes are not. The old sports pavilion, still there, can be clearly seen in the background.

Technical:

The most likely camera for these shots would be a Kodak Brownie 2A. The prints of photographs 0003 and 0005 have the number 718 stamped on the back which could possibly indicate that they were in batch processed by a local laboratory but 005, in common with 007 and 009 is printed on Kodak Velox paper whereas 003 is not which could be viewed as a counter indication.

Dates:

Fred, or possibly Elsie, has written on the back of 005 and 009 that Fred is just two weeks old. Strictly speaking this would make it Monday 23rd February but as I suspect that grandad (Frederick John Fulford) would have been at work on a Monday, I have therefore set the date as Sunday 22nd February 1925.

Frames:

MPS-0003	2202	12:00	Baby with his nurse
MPS-0005	2202	12:01	Baby with nurse.
MPS-0007	2202	13:00	Sister, baby and mother.
MPS-0009	2202	13:05	Baby, nurse and mother.
MPS-0013	2202	12:00	Reverse of mps-0003
MPS-0014	2202	12:01	Reverse of mps-0005
MPS-0016	2202	13:00	Reverse of mps-0007.
MPS-0017	2202	13:05	Reverse of mps-0009.



MPS-0003.jpg



MPS-0005.jpg



MPS-0007.jpg



MPS-0009.jpg



MPS-0013.jpg



MPS-0014.jpg



MPS-0016.jpg



MPS-0017.jpg

**MPS-0003 - Baby with his nurse**



MPS-0005 - Baby with nurse.



MPS-0007 - Sister, baby and mother.



MPS-0009 - Baby, nurse and mother.