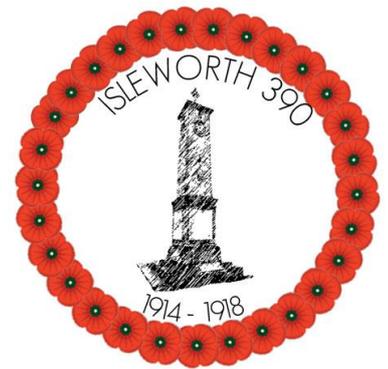


## Frederick Alfred Watkives

His name is on the war memorial as F E Watkins, but research proved that it should be F A Watkives. Even this unusual name has proved difficult to research as it was sometimes misspelt as Watkivs, Watkins or Watkwes. Frederick was born in 1893 in Fulham, and his baptism record in West Kensington shows his parents as Alfred and Alfrida May Rose Watkives.

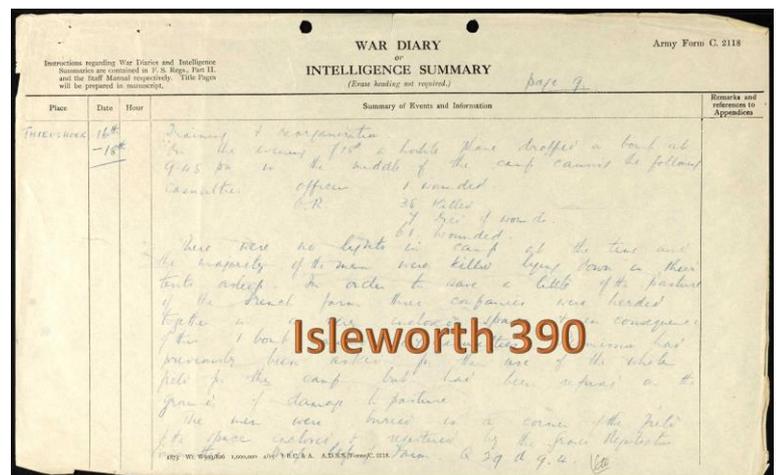


BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>S. Andrew, Fulham</i> in the County of <i>London</i> in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and <i>ninety three</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 93 July 23 No. 79	<i>Frederick Alfred</i>	<i>Alfred Alfrida May Rose</i>	<i>Watkives</i>	<i>48 Stratton Rd.</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Edmund June 15. '93</i>

His father, a gardener, died in 1897, and in 1901 his mother, brother and sister were living in Fulham but there is no sign of Frederick, aged 7. In 1911 he was a finisher boot repairer, not living at home but in Redhill, Surrey. It's not clear when his family moved to Isleworth. He enlisted in Hounslow and was a private in first the Northants and then The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) G/21863 formerly 45962 ? /25110. On 18<sup>th</sup> August 1917 he and 37 other men of his regiment were killed in an air raid in France while camped in a field. They were buried at Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre. He was aged about 24.

Although there is no family information in his Commonwealth War Graves Commission record (included with the permission of the CWGC), his next of kin was his mother, who was by then known as Rose Smith. After the war his brother Walter lived in Isleworth with her and her husband George Thomas Smith at 167 Twickenham Road. Later his mother lived with his sister Mav Watkives at 22 Octavia Road.

Extract from war diary of 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, 18th August 1917



**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August Thieushoek:** 'On the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> a hostile plane dropped a bomb at 9.45 causing 107 casualties' (38 killed, 7 died of wounds). 'The majority of the men were killed lying down in their tents asleep.' 'The men were buried in a corner of the field and the space enclosed and registered by the Graves Registration Committee. 19<sup>th</sup>. Funeral service for men killed by bomb.'

In Memory of  
Private  
**Frederick Alfred Watkives**  
21863, 10th Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) who died on 18 August 1917

Remembered with Honour  
Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission