



Frederick John Bowman

The 1901 Census and GRO records show that four year old Fred was the first son, born to William and Lucy Bowman, nee Harrison, and registered in the 1st Quarter of 1897. He was baptised in Canterbury on 3rd January 1897. At this time Fred had two older sisters, Rosina and Maria, and a tiny baby sister, Florence. The family were living in the delightfully named, Little Love Street, in Herne, Kent. Ten years later, the family had moved to 147 Grove Road Hounslow where father William was working as a 'coachman'. The two older sisters have left home, 'tiny baby' Florence is now 10 and Lilian May 8.

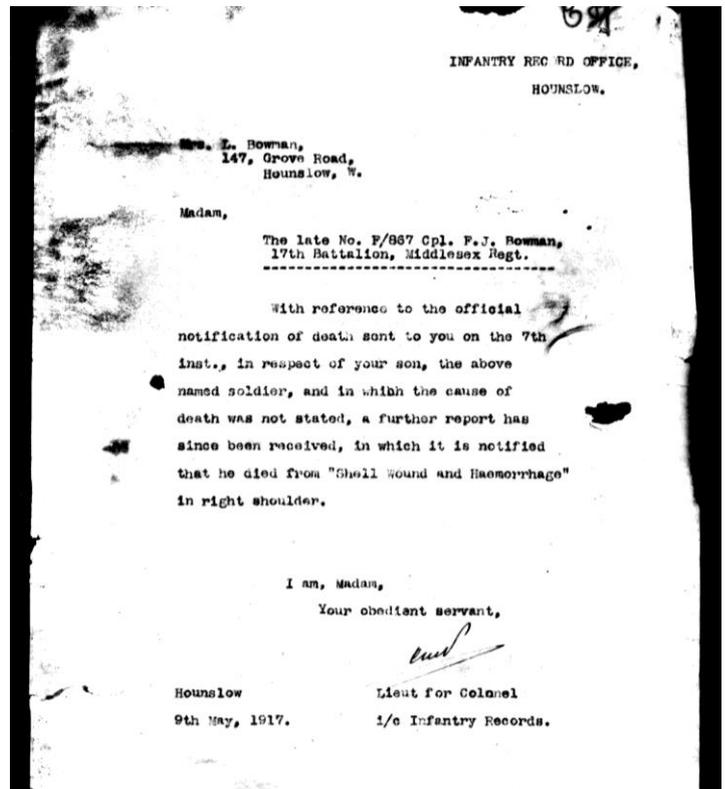
Fred was now 15 with older and younger sisters and two younger brothers Edward and Harold. William and Lucy can be found in the 1939 Register, living at the same address in Hounslow.

Fred would have been about 18 years old when he decided to go to war for his country. His service records tell us that he was probably a confident, efficient and well respected soldier. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in November 1916 and was a Corporal by March 1917.

Fred's parents must have been devastated to learn of the death of their son. Four days later they were sent this letter.....

Middlesex Chronicle 19 May 1917

"Corporal Frederick Bowman, of the 17th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, son of Mr & Mrs Bowman of 147, Grove Road, Hounslow, is another of our young warriors who has given his life in the great war. He was 20 years of age, and previously to joining the Football Battalion of the Diehards in February 1915, held a berth in the civilian department of the Veterinary Staff at Hounslow Barracks (*horse keeper*), and had before been employed at Pears Factory. In the November following, he went to France with his Battalion, took part in much of the subsequent fighting (*throughout 1916*) and on April 28th (1917) was severely



St Leonard's Church Heston

wounded in the right arm at the Battle of Arras. He was brought to St Luke's Hospital, Halifax, on the 3rd inst. (May), and on the 5th died from the effects of his wound (*sepsis*). His body was bought to Hounslow, and on Saturday was interred in Heston Churchyard with military honours. The Rev. J Burrough, Army Chaplain officiated: the firing party was supplied by the Royal Fusiliers, and many relatives attended. The floral tributes sent included the following:- **In ever loving memory of our darling boy, from his broken hearted Mum and Dad**; in ever loving memory of our dear brother, from his sorrowing sisters; **in ever loving memory of my dearest sweetheart Fred, from Floss**; The Doctor, Sister, Nurses and Patients, No 10 Ward, St Luke's Hospital, Halifax."

Frederick was also remembered on the Pears War memorial.