



Frederick Robert Brown (G/2600) was born in 1896 to parents Robert Arthur Brown and Alice Helen/Ellen (nee Francis). The couple had married in 1893 at St Dionis in Parson's Green, Fulham. Frederick had an older sister Dorothy and six younger siblings, Ethel, Ivy, Jessie May, Arthur, James and Florence. Another son John was born in 1914. In 1901 the family lived at 32 Milford Rd East Twickenham. In 1911 this family were settled in Isleworth living at 143 Linkfield Road.

Frederick enlisted in Hammersmith on September 9th 1914 joining the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment 8th Battalion (part of the 72 Brigade, 24th Division). After basic training, his Battalion sailed to Boulogne arriving on 30th August 1915. These new soldiers were very inexperienced and it was reported at the time that they would only be used to fight where the enemy was already on the retreat. On 4th September Frederick and his Battalion began a march across France to Loos. By 5am on the 26th Sept the Battalion had received no orders and had no idea what was expected of them. At 9.45am there was a brief verbal run through of the attack which began at 11am. Frederick's Battalion stuck to its planned route, encountering artillery fire at point blank range. The losses were severe.

Frederick was originally reported as 'wounded and missing'. **Ten months later in July 1916, Robert and Alice were informed that Frederick had been 'killed in action' on 26th Sept. 1915.** Frederick had died on the first day of his engagement with the enemy. He had been in France for 27 days.

Frederick was a bright young man who had won a scholarship at Grove Road School Hounslow to go on to the County High School. He then went to work for the Thames Steam Tug and Lighterage Company at Brentford Docks. He attended evening classes and was granted a free place at Hounslow Polytechnic just before he enlisted. Frederick also gained certificates in Advanced French, which enabled him to act as Company Interpreter whilst in France. He had a bright future ahead of him.

It was reported in the Middlesex Chronicle (July 8th 1916) that Frederick was 19 years old and 'was proud' to be one Kitchener's first voluntary army recruits. The newspaper article also reported that **'His parents wished to express their gratitude to the Red Cross Enquiry Department for their efforts to trace their son'.**

Frederick was awarded the British and Victory Medal. The Register of Soldier's Effects tells us that he left £4 14s 7d to his father. Frederick's father died in June 1948 leaving money to Frederick's brothers, William (Bank Clerk), James (Teacher) and John (Accountant). The family home address was then 38 Newton Road, Isleworth. Lance –Sergeant Frederick Robert Brown is commemorated at the Loos Memorial Panel 95-97 and he was also honoured on the memorials at All Saints and St John's churches in Isleworth and at Isleworth County School, where he was a pupil.

