

## Percy Walter Camplin



Percy was born in July 1881 in Chelsea and was baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1881 in St Jude's Church, Kensal Green. His father, John William James Camplin, was an insurance agent from Islington and his mother, Julia Ann (nee Bateman), was born in Mile End. They married in March 1872 and had 5 children, the firstborn Emily Jane died soon after birth in December 1872. She was followed by Alice Elizabeth born December 1874 and James Frederick also born in Clerkenwell in December 1876; Percy born in 1881 and May Louisa also born in Chelsea in September 1883. By 1891 the family were living at 36 Galton Street in Chelsea and James was at work as a builder's office boy aged 14. Percy and May were both at school.

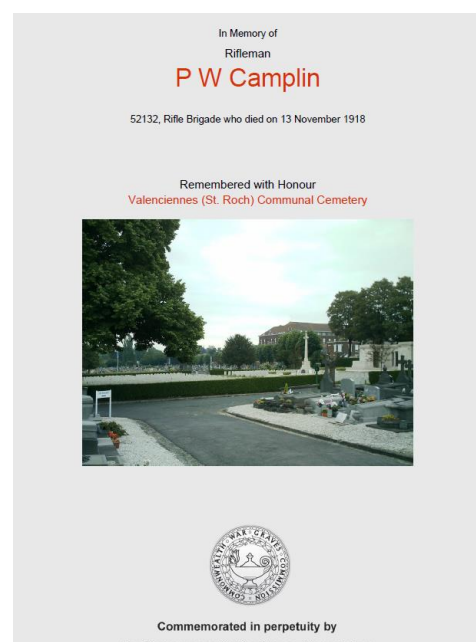
According to the 1901 census, the family had moved to 25 Pembridge Road, Kensington and Percy's mother was working as a tobacconist. Percy was a library assistant and May worked with her mother as a tobacconist assistant.

Aged 24, Percy married Florence Elizabeth Hatton who was then 33 at St Mark's Church, Notting Hill on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1905 and they lived at 13 Ladbrooke Crescent. By the 1911 census, Percy and Florence had moved to 8 Newton Road in Isleworth; they had a son, Reginald Walter aged 3 and Percy was a librarian for the Heston and Isleworth Urban District Council. In 1912 Percy was promoted to the post of Chief Librarian.

Percy joined the 17<sup>th</sup> Middlesex and 23<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex Regiments as Private 3403 before joining the Rifle Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> London Regiment 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion known as the Artist's Rifles as Rifleman 52132. He was mentioned in the local newspaper as "our local warrior" praising his passing out as a first class signaller at the Thames and Medway Brigade School on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1917. Percy was posted to France where he died from wounds sustained in battle on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1918, 2 days after peace was declared. He is buried in the Valenciennes (St Roch) Communal Cemetery, grave ref 1.C.27. There is a commemorative plaque to Percy Camplin in Hounslow Library.



**Above:** Percy Camplin in his military uniform



Certificate included with the permission of the CWGC