

Alfred Thomas Collins



Alfred Thomas Collins was the son of George Collins (born in Aldingbourne, Sussex about 1840) and his wife Ellen (born about 1844 in Woolbeding, Sussex). Alfred was born in Temlington, Sussex in 1885 and had 11 brothers and sisters (Ann Laura b. 1865, Walter George b. 1868, Charley Edward b. 1870, Fanny Jane b. 1872, Arthur James b. 1874, Frederick William b. 1875, Francis Edward b. 1877, Archibald Claud b. 1877, Mary Elizabeth b. 1879, Emily Maria b. 1881, and Amelia Caroline b. 1883).



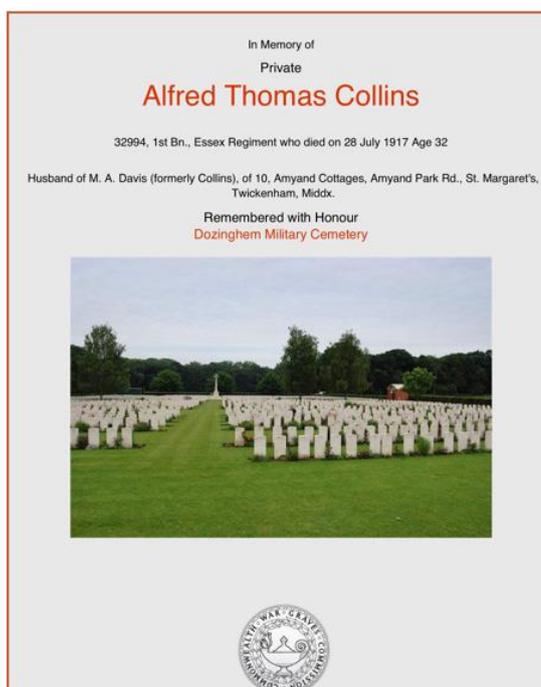
Alfred's father George was a railway porter in 1871, a cowman in 1881 and a general farm labourer in 1891, by which time the family had moved from Sussex to Cudham in Kent. The family had moved again by 1901 to Tolworth, near Kingston, when George was living on his own means as a commercial agent. Alfred aged 15 was now a grocer's assistant. George died in 1903 in Kingston and by 1911 the family, headed by Ellen, was living at 41 Talbot Road, Isleworth (*see left*). Alfred lived here with his mother and older siblings Ann Laura aged 45 and Walter George aged 43 and his mother's granddaughter Isobel Mary Rose aged 11. Alfred Thomas's occupation was listed as "milk carrier".

Alfred Thomas married Mabel Alice Willis in 1912 (Brentford registration). Mabel was born in Upton, Hampshire in 1888 and in 1911 she was living as a lodger at 1 Upper Square, Isleworth (*right:-1894 Isleworth map of the area with the two Squares around Swan Street*), employed as a confectioner's assistant. Alfred and Mabel appear not to have had any children. Mabel remarried locally in 1920 to Joseph James Davis and they lived at 10 Amyand Park Road, St Margarets, Twickenham at least until 1938.



Alfred enlisted in Twickenham and joined the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment (service number 32994) as a private. He died of wounds on the 28th July 1917. The regimental diary for the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment tells of the battalion being under heavy fire in the trenches near Mailly Wood around the 10th July and sustaining "fairly heavy casualties". They were taken off the line on the 17th and were billeted in Poperinge from the 28th to the 30th before being billeted in Ypres on the 31st July.

Alfred is buried in the Dozinghern Military Cemetery at Poperinge, West Flanders. In readiness for the forthcoming offensive in July 1917 (Passchendaele) a casualty clearing station was located at Dozinghern just outside the front held by Commonwealth forces and was in use until early 1918. There are over 3,174 Commonwealth WW1 burials in the cemetery and 65 German war graves from the period. The cemetery also contains 73 WW2 burials dating from the allied withdrawal to Dunkirk in May 1940. Alfred is also remembered on St Bridget's Memorial and at All Saints.



The certificate is included with the permission of the CWGC