

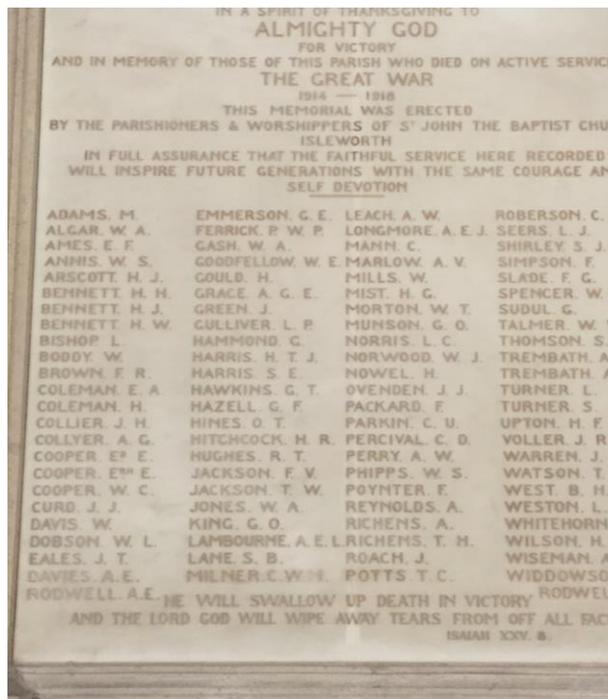
Albert George Collyer



Albert Collyer was born in 1889 and bred in Hounslow, so when the call came to enlist in the British army it was to Hounslow recruiting office that he went. He joined as a private in the London Regiment (5041,3/8), transferring later to the 11th Battalion of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, where he trained to be a rifleman (A/200513)

Before the war, Albert was a bricklayer, living at home with his parents John George Collyer, born in Chertsey, Surrey and died in 1919, and Emma Oliver (1854- 1936, who had married in Little Baddow, Essex, 16 May 1881) and his sisters Gertrude Annie (1890-1973) and Winifred Helen (born in 1893) in 71 Inwood Road, Hounslow. They had moved there from 2 St James Cottages, Station Road, Hounslow, then Isleworth. His father was a jobbing gardener and his sisters: Florence Emma (1882-1967) and Ethel Mary, born in 1884, were in domestic service in Surrey. His brother Frank (1887-1968) lived just three doors away at 77 Inwood Road, as a barman in the Lord Clyde Public House.

Albert fought on the Western front in France. By August 1918, British and allied forces had been brought forward to face the strong German defence system known as the Hindenburg Line. Boosted by troops from America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand there were a series of successful battles against the German army, culminating in the recapture of the town of Cambrai on October 8th, over-running the Hindenburg line along its total length and heralding the end of the war.



A month later, the Armistice was signed and the fighting ended but Rifleman Albert Collyer had been killed in action on October 3rd, aged 29, probably in the Battle of Beaurevoir. He was buried in the Sucrerie Cemetery in Ablain-St. Nazaire France, and was also commemorated on the memorial in St John's Church, Isleworth, *see photos left and below*.

His mother, Emma, was the sole beneficiary of his



effects, £26 11shillings and 3 pence and his British and Victory medals.

The family remained in the Hounslow/ Ealing area and George's siblings lived long years. Florence had worked as an infirmiry maid at St John's School Leatherhead, and married on November 13th 1911 at Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow to Charles Horton, born Norfolk, who was also working at the same school. Her sister, Winifred, married Arthur Horton, Charles's brother in 1919 and lived at 61 Inwood Road until at least 1961. Her sister, Gertrude continued to live in the family home, 71 Inwood Road, until her death. Ethel married Charles Watts, a builder, aged 22 in 1915, at St John's Church, Ealing Dean. Tragically, Charles, serving in the Machine Gun Corps died of wounds in 1917. Frank, a tin smith and later a building and manufacturing labourer, married Florence Laura Frith, aged 24, at St. John's Church, Isleworth on December 25th 1920, and continued to live at 14 Grainger Road, Isleworth.