



Frederick Connell

In 1901 Frederick Connell (8, and born in 1892 in the Brentford area) is living at 6 South Street, Isleworth with his parents George and Rosetta and five brothers and sisters, some of which are half brothers and sisters from George's first marriage to Esther (nee Clark). Father George is listed as a Dairyman. Interestingly the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Heston & Isleworth - *List of Dairies, Cowsheds & Milksellers 1904* – has Frederick's father listed as 'Owns Cows & 'bodger' (a chair maker). The family kept the cows in sheds at the rear of their living accommodation. Perhaps there was also a shared field nearby for the cows to graze.

Esther died in 1886 aged 35years, and George married Rosetta Odell the following year. Baby James arrived first, followed by Frederick, Charles, Lucy, May and Elsie – Frederick had plenty of playmates! In the 1891 Census, father George is absent from the family home but can be found in the records of Wormwood Scrubs 'for warehousebreaking & receiving after a previous conviction'. In 1911 Frederick, now 18, is living as a boarder at 26 May Street, West Kensington and is recorded as a butcher's assistant.



Courtesy: National Army Museum

Private Frederick Connell's service records no longer exist, so we don't know when he volunteered to serve his country. He did enlist at Aldershot and was placed in the 10th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, later moving to 15th Battalion. Regimental records show that this Battalion moved to France on 12th November 1915. Frederick might well have fought at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. His Battalion was certainly at the Third Battle of the Scarpe (part of the Battle of Arras) which began on 3rd May 1917 with a British attack along a 16 mile front from Roeux to Bullecourt. The Battle of Arras officially ended on 16th May. Frederick was 24 when he was **killed in action** on the 9th May – death was '**presumed**', so **his body was never found**. Today, Forces War Records have him listed as '**missing**'.

Private Frederick Connell was awarded the Victory and British War medals and is commemorated at the Orchard Dump Cemetery at Arleux-en-Gohelle in France. *"The cemetery was opened in April 1917 on the new front resulting from the Battles of Arras and was used by the units holding that front until November"* that year. (Commonwealth War Grave Commission). He was also honoured at All Saints Church in Isleworth.

