



John Thomas Cronin (Q2 1891 – 13 February 1915)

John was the son of Mary Coughlin (nee Drinan) and the stepson of Cornelius Cronin. John's stepfather was born in County Cork, Ireland and his mother Mary in West Drayton. Cornelius was a Market Garden Labourer. In 1891 Mary Coughlin was a widow living with her 5 children at 5 Stafford Place, Isleworth and working as a Laundress. The children were Catherine aged 13, Margaret 12, Annie 4, Ellen 1 and son John aged under 1. All the children were born in Isleworth and their births registered in the name of Coughlin.

In 1893 the Westminster Roman Catholic Census records a household at 1 Magdala Road, Isleworth consisting of Cornelius Cronin along with Mary Drinan and six children, all with the family name Drinan, Catherine, Margaret, Joanna, Ellen, John and finally Mary (born 1893). In 1901 the Census return for 3 Stafford Place, South Street, Isleworth shows Cornelius Cronin with Mary Cronin along with Annie Cronin aged 14, John Cronin aged 10, Bridget Cronin aged 6 (born 1895) and baby Cornelius aged 4 (born 1897). John attended St Mary's School. By 1911 the Census return for 5 Castle Place, South Street, Isleworth records Mary Coughlin, a widow aged 55 with John Coughlin aged 20 and son Cornelius Coughlin aged 14. John was working as a Market Garden Labourer. The other person in the household was Cornelius Cronin aged 58 who is described as a Boarder.



Cap Badge of the East Surrey Regiment
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John enlisted in Kingston upon Thames on 17 October 1911 aged 20 under the name of Cronin. He became a Private in the 1st Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. He was posted to Ireland in 1912 serving in both Kinsale and Dublin. In November 1912 he was due to be posted to India but deserted. In 1914 at the outbreak of World War One he re-joined the East Surrey Regiment and was given the King's Pardon. He was posted to France in September 1914. In February 1915 the 1st Battalion East Surreys were in the trenches in sector B in front of the town of Messines in Belgium. The battalion war diary records that 13 February was a rainy and stormy day. There was some German shelling of the area and a single shell killed one man and wounded 5 more. John

Cronin was killed in action on 13 February 1915.

The Army Register of Soldier's Effects lists John's mother as his sole beneficiary. His service record shows she received his personal effects at 5 Castle Place, Isleworth in August 1915. There is a marriage record for John's stepfather Cornelius Cronin and his mother, Mary Coughlin in the spring of 1916. However Mary Cronin died 2 years later in March 1918. John's stepfather, Cornelius Cronin then became his beneficiary including receiving John's British War Medal and Victory Medal at 5 Castle Place, Isleworth in 1921. John's sister Bridget and half sister, Margaret both married and remained living in Isleworth. John is remembered at Ration Farm (La Plus Douve). Annexe, Ploegsteert in Belgium. He is also commemorated at both St Bridget's and St John's Churches.



War Memorial Plaque in St Bridget's Church