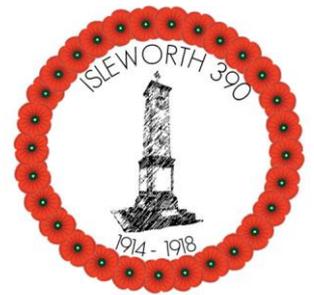


Charles Thomas Dell



Charles Thomas Dell was born in 1881 in Isleworth, the son of James Dell (1851-1911), a carpenter, born in the Strand in London and Elizabeth Fanny Wilkinson (1851- 1932) born in Brewood in Staffordshire. His parents married in St Martins in the Fields Church in the Strand, Westminster in 1878, the same church that James' father (a police inspector, born in Brentford) had married Maria Daniels in 1850.

Charles's parents had moved to Isleworth by 1881, living initially at Bridge Street, Northumberland Terrace, then 20 South Street by 1891, 1 Alma Villas, Byfield Road by 1901, then 5 Byfield Road by 1911. Charles had five surviving siblings in 1911; six other children had died.

Charles was a brewer's labourer in 1901 but later became a painter by trade and he was admitted to the Twickenham Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, as a painter in November 1915. He was also a bell-ringer himself, and growing up he rang a number of peals from the All Saints' tower in 1906 and 1907, as well as St Catherine's Church, Feltham in 1912. He enlisted in Hounslow, in March 1916, living at 3, Byfield Road, Isleworth and aged 34. He gave his preference as the Royal Fusiliers, but was assigned to the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) and eventually the 16th Battalion (The Public Schools), with a service number of 205182. It would appear that he was originally recorded as 6441, in an earlier posting, probably with the 4/8th and 4/10th Battalions which on 1st September 1916 were absorbed into the 7th Reserve Battalion. He left Folkestone for Boulogne on 8th March 1917. His regiment was heavily involved on the Western Front. In July 1916, the 16th Middlesex were photographed at 'White City', located near Beaumont Hamel on the Somme, earned its name from the white chalk banks its trenches were cut from. On 1 July 1916 a huge mine packed with 18 tons of explosive was detonated under the German front line on Hawthorn

Ridge, located directly in front of 'White City'. *Photograph below included courtesy of the National Army Museum.* Charles was killed in action on 4th October 1917, aged 35 in the Battle of Broodseinde, the Third Battle of Ypres. He is commemorated on the Tyn Cott Memorial, and was also remembered in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints Church, Church Street, Isleworth. *See below for his photo.*

His mother received his Victory and British War medals. Charles's two brothers, Frederick James (aged 40) and Frank Steven (aged 34) were each living in the Byfield Road/ Talbot Road area, when his



mother corresponded with the War Office in 1919. Frederick (1879-1945) was a bricklayer and had married Violet Ethel Emerton in 1909. Frank Steven (1884-1961) was working in the Pears factory in 1911 as a packing case maker (as was his father as a packing case maker and his sisters, Nelly Mary and Elizabeth as factory hands.) Frank married Emmeline Roach in 1912, the same year as Nelly Mary (1880-1968) married Frederick Helsdon and then lived in Worthing. Elizabeth (1882-1952) was living in the family home at 3 Byfield Road in 1939. Florence, Charles's other sister, (1888-1964) was working as a housekeeper at 138 Twickenham Road in 1939.

