

## Albert Edward Evans



Albert was born in 1892 in Isleworth, the son of Edward William Evans and Ellen Handren (Handran, Handrian, Andrin and other derivatives), who had married in the Brentford area in 1890. Albert was their oldest child and he had three siblings alive in 1911: Ellen, born in 1894, John Edward in 1899, and Mary Ann in 1903. In 1901, the family was living in Mitcham, in Surrey in Greyhound Terrace, Greyhound Lane, but by 1911, had returned to Isleworth to 99 Linkfield Road.

Albert's father, Edward William was also born locally and in 1867 was baptised at St John's Church in Isleworth. He worked as a general labourer, sometimes in plastering, and in 1939, when he and Ellen were living at 35 Wheatley Road, Isleworth, declared that he was a retired stoker. Ellen was also born in Isleworth, and her mother from Ireland; on the 1891 and 1901 censuses, Catherine (Ellen's mother) and Edward (Kate's brother) were living with them. Edward was also there in 1911.

In 1911, Albert was a flower seller. Albert's army records are not available, but we do know that he enlisted in Hounslow and served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), as Private Evans (L/10252). His Battalion were involved with significant battles on the Western Front from Mons, Aisnes and Ypres to Loos, Menin Road and in 1918, Cambrai. They ended the war in Berlaimont, France. The International Red Cross has shared documents of POW, which included Albert Edward, who was captured and interned in Parchim Camp, in Mechlenburg, built on a former cavalry drill ground three miles from the town. It held 25,000 men, and up to 45,000 more registered in work camps. The records do not show when he was interned with the registered POW numbers of: 42779 and 42728. The camp had been inspected in 1915, and reported on in a 'Report of An Inspection of the Camp for Prisoners of War at Parchim by Dr. A.R. Taylor and Dr. D. J. McCarthy' on May 12, 1916 covering their diet, the hospitals, sleeping accommodation and general routines. POW in Britain were 'adopted' by people in the UK who would write to them and send parcels. The Queens' records show that Albert Edward had two correspondents, one living in Horley, and other in Hove. His father's address was also given: 26 North Street and 6, Downton Place, both in Isleworth. Fellow

Queens' prisoners who survived this ordeal spoke after the war about the harsh conditions at work, particularly with the railways; they also commented on the local people and their lack of food. Albert Edward died of La Grippe, influenza, in the hospital barracks at Parcham on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1918, and his family were informed on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1919. Although his 'Soldier's Effects' register refers to pneumonia, it is likely that this was a part of the Spanish Flu Epidemic which devastated Europe in 1918. Albert was buried in Schleswig Holstein, but his body was exhumed and reburied in Hamburg Cemetery in 1923. His father was his next of kin and received £114. 7s 5d, along with his medals: the Victory and British War. Albert is also remembered on the memorial in St Bridget's church in Isleworth. **See right.**

