

Ernest Fiddler



Ernest Albert Fiddler was born in 1887. He is listed in the 1891 census living at 22 Surrey Road, Chiswick with his father, Robert, aged 36, a gardener from Ealing; his mother, Eugenie, aged 36 from Chiswick; his brothers Robert aged 17, an agricultural labourer; Henry aged 12, a post errand boy; Herbert aged 10 and William aged 7.

By 1911, Ernest had been married for 3 years to Alice, a laundress from Chalfont St Giles and they had 2 children, Florence aged 3 and William aged 1. They were boarding in Brentford at 1 Field Lane with Alice Evans, aged 42, a widow charwoman and her daughter, Violet aged 19, a jam boiler factory hand and her son Edward aged 14, a baker boy. *See the Ordnance Survey Map C1915 below of Brentford End and Field Lane, close to the station.*



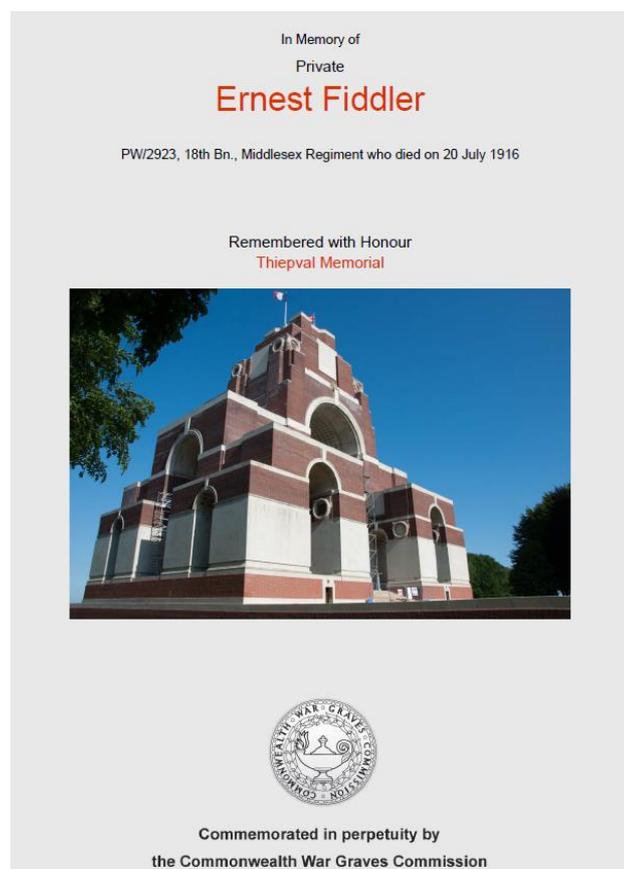
Ernest and Alice (née Dutton) had married on 23rd June, 1907 at Isleworth Parish Church. He joined up at Chiswick Town Hall on 19th May, 1915 for the duration of the war and was posted to the Middlesex Regiment on 21st May. He was Private PW/2923. Ernest was 28 years old, measured 5 ft 8" and had a distinctive scar on his right eyebrow. He left his wife, Alice, with Florence May born 31st July, 1907, William Ernest born 17th December, 1909, Alice Mary born 19th August, 1912 and Lily Rosina, born 13th December, 1914. Ernest and Alice were really poor and work was

scarce, Ernest had tried everything, but sometimes they just could not make ends meet and ended up in the Poor House. Alice gave birth to at least one of her children in the Poor House – her third child also called Alice was born in Warkworth House in Twickenham in August 1912. The prospect of a regular income in the army must have been attractive. The family was residing in South Acton at the time of Ernest's death.

Ernest was sent to France on 12th November, 1915 – 18th February 1916. He received a gunshot wound in his back on 17th February and had a short period at home following hospital treatment from 19th February – 17th April, 1916 then returned to France on 18th April. He was killed in action, digging another communications trench on 20th July, 1916 aged 29. Sadly, his daughter Lily Rosina died shortly after Ernest, on 24th August aged 30 months from gastroenteritis.

As reported in the Middlesex Chronicle on 26th August 1916, his officer, Lieutenant Lloyd Jones wrote: 'On his return from being wounded he seemed more determined than ever to do his utmost to push things. He was an excellent soldier, and we shall miss him very much indeed.'

Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the 1914/15 Star. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Monument pier and face 12D and 13B and also in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints Church, Church Street, Isleworth.



Certificate included with the permission of the CWGC