

Reginald Fredericks



Reginald Harry Fredericks, born in 1898, was the son of William Henry Fredericks, born in Colchester about 1859 and Caroline Southerwood, also from Essex, born about the same year. His parents married in St James's Norlands, Kensington in 1884 and moved to Isleworth; William Fredericks was a milk carrier, then a carpenter and later recorded as a music dealer. In 1911, Caroline (Carrie) was a laundress working from home, along with her daughter Minnie. Reginald had six brothers and sisters: Alice, William, Emily, Albert Edwin (baptised at all Souls Church, St Margarets on the same day as Reginald-September 25th 1898, and in 1911 working bottling in the brewery; he died locally in 1979), Olive and Minnie .They lived initially in Guernsey Cottages, Haliburton Road, then 24 Newry Road and afterwards at 157 Haliburton Road.

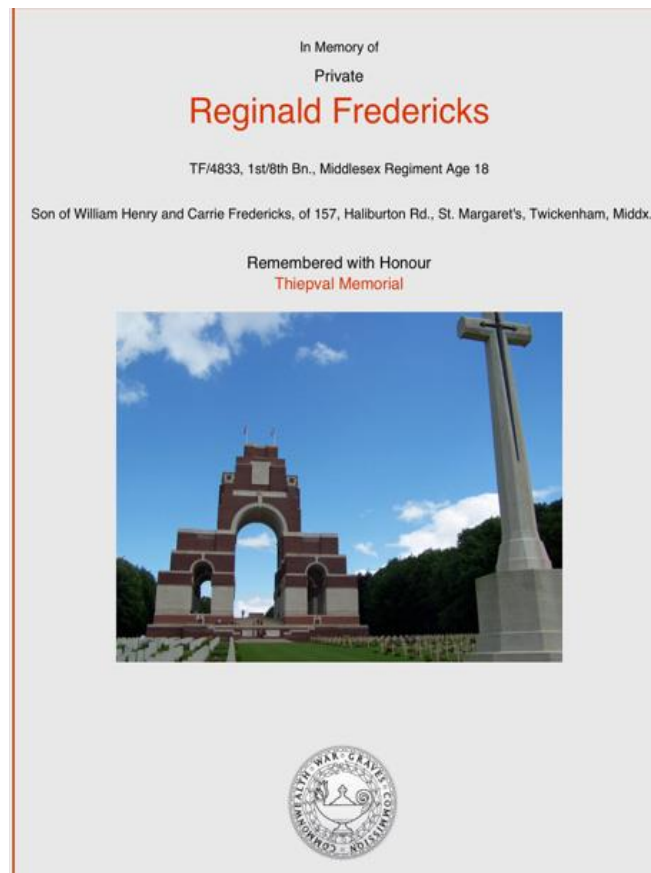
Below: 24 Newry Road. 2016



Private Reginald Harry (4833) enlisted in Hounslow and joined the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) 1/8th TF Battalion. He was killed in action on 26th June 1916, before his 18th birthday. His family were told that he was missing presumed dead; they never received official confirmation of his death. The family story is that his mother Carrie never stopped believing that he may be alive. She lived well into her nineties and apparently always left the side door unlocked for Reg just in case he came home. The family understands that Reginald was killed and buried at Gommecourt, a northern part of the Somme. He was digging trenches when a shell exploded, presumably very close to him as his body was never formally identified, as confirmed by one of his officer's diary records. One of his relatives visited the cemetery at Gommecourt in northern France and found a group of graves belonging to soldiers from his regiment, along with a few unidentified graves. It's likely that one of these unknown ones belongs to Reg. He is

remembered on the

Thiepval Memorial to those servicemen who died or were missing during the Somme engagement and who have no known grave. He is also on the memorial in All Souls Church, Northcote Road and was also included in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints, Isleworth.



Above- Reginald and centre in his uniform and with his medals and hat pin. The photos are included with the permission of the family.

The certificate above is included with the permission of the CWGC