



Walter Godfrey Griffin (Q2 1887 – 4 October 1917)

Walter was the son of William Thomas and Mary Ann Griffin (nee Farmer) who married in 1875 in St Peter's Church, Norbiton, Surrey. William and his wife Mary, Walter's mother, were both born in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey. In 1881 William and Mary were living in Algar Road, Isleworth with their three eldest children William Thomas (born 1876), Mary Eliza (born 1878) and Alice Gertrude (born 1879). In total William and Mary had 10 children Frank Hubert born in 1884, followed by Walter himself in 1887 and then Thomas Charles (1890), Louisa Elizabeth (1892), Ada Dorothy (1896), Elsie Margaret (1899) and lastly George Edward born in 1902.



16 Tolson Road, Isleworth

By 1901 the family were living in Tolson Road, Isleworth. William was working as a Coachsmith. They still had six children living at home. The eldest of these was Frank aged 16 who was a plumber's mate and Walter at that time was aged 13 and working as a doctor's errand boy.

Walter married Hettie Rebecca Holloway in January 1907 when they were both aged 19. They had one daughter, Hettie Louise Doris Griffin. The family were living at 62 Laurel Avenue, Twickenham in 1911. At that time Walter and wife Hettie were both aged 23 and their daughter was aged 4. Walter was working as a Cheesemonger's Assistant.

Walter enlisted in Twickenham and initially was in the Cyclists Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. Later he became a Private in the Second Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. In September 1917 this regiment was near Ypres in Flanders and fought in the Battle of Broodseinde (part of the Battle of Passchendaele). After a period of drier weather there was heavy rain on 4 October when the major attack on the German trenches was launched by Anzac and British forces. The result of the battle was a significant advance of the allied lines but at a high cost in casualties. General Herbert Plumer called it "the greatest victory since the Marne".

Walter was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Broodseinde on 4 October 1917. He was 30 years old. He is commemorated at the Tyne Cot Cemetery, Zonnebeke, West Flanders. He is also remembered on the memorials at St John's and All Saints Churches.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his wife Hettie's address as 28 Ailsa Avenue, St Margarets. Hettie, just aged 30 when Walter died, did not re-marry and died at age 79.



28 Ailsa Avenue, St Margarets