

## Charles Frederick Humphrey



Charles (known as Charlie by the family) was born in Isleworth in January 1896 to William and Rosina (nee Hislop) who were married on 31st August, 1890 in St Andrew's, Holborn. William had grown up in Isleworth, living in 11 Downton Place, North Street as his father worked as a miller's workman.

In the 1901 census, the family are listed as living at 12 Queen's Terrace. William, aged 36, is a house painter; Rosina is 38 and they have 3 sons: Albert Victor aged 7; Charles Frederick aged 5 and Arthur Edward aged 2. By 1911,

William has died from painter's colic, (possibly lead poisoning from the paint); they have moved to no 1 Queen's Terrace and have another son, Horace John born in 1901. Rosina is taking in laundry and Charlie is listed as an errand boy for a confectioner's. Arthur and Bert went to war. Bert was an ambulance driver and later a valet in occupied Germany, (where he met and married a woman who had lost 2 brothers and a fiancé in the war). Arthur also served and he suffered psychologically in the 1930s, probably as a result of his war experiences Rosina continued to live at 1 Queen's Terrace, Isleworth until her death in 1941.



12 Queens Terrace, Isleworth in 2016



Rosina with three of her sons: left to right- Charlie, Arthur and Bert outside 1 Queens Terrace, Isleworth. Photo courtesy of the family

Charles enlisted in Kingston upon Thames into the East Surrey Regiment, 1st Battalion as Private SR/7010. The battalion suffered heavy losses at the Somme and on the 24th September, the East Surrey 1st Battalion consisting of 19 Officers and 437 other ranks moved off at 5pm to relieve other troops and be ready for an attack on 25th. Charles (aged 20) was among 12 officers and 191 other ranks who were killed on 25th September, 1916. He was mentioned in the All Souls' Parish Magazine November 1916 edition and is buried in the Serre Road Cemetery No 2, grave ref XXXVI. E. 2. He is also on the memorial at All Souls Church, Northcote Road.

*The photo on the right* is one of Charlie with an unnamed woman- it is likely to have been taken in England as the back of the photo is printed [POST CARD / CORRESPONDENCE / ADDRESS ONLY]. On it is handwritten in a heavy, possibly emotional hand:

[Charlie killed 1916 1.15am 25 September]. No.7010 Private, East Surrey Regiment.

Charlie was wounded on 22 August and died on 25 September 1916. In 1932 the Imperial Graves Commission wrote to his mother informing her that her son's remains had been identified and reburied in Serre Road Cemetery, No.2, Beaumont Hamel, Plot 36, Row E, Grave 2. The family does not know if she asked for his Identity discs to be returned.

