

## Albert Cyril Leonard



Albert Cyril was the first son of Ernest Albert Lawrence and Emily Allchurch, who had married on February 20<sup>th</sup> 1876 in St Martin's Parish Church in Birmingham. Ernest was born in Wiltshire in 1854; his trade was in stone, as a polisher, mason and monumental stone cutting. Emily was born in 1856 in Dudley. The family lived in the Birmingham area initially before moving to Lambeth/ Vauxhall/ Kennington. Albert Cyril was born in Lambeth, in the second quarter of 1885 and baptised at St Peter's Vauxhall on April 22<sup>nd</sup> that same year.



In 1891, Albert was living at 136, Upper Kennington Lane, Lambeth; in 1901, 169 Farlton Road, Wandsworth and by 1911 at 144, Ethelred Street, Kennington. He was a piano maker, employed at the Munt Brothers Piano Works at Eltringham Street nearby, and for a short period as a pan man at the sweet confectioners possibly in an adjoining street at Auborn & Heaviside confectionery makers factory

Albert had one other brother and two sisters. His brother, Ernest Andrew, was born in Lambeth and married Mabel Woodman in 1909. Tragically, he too died in WW1 at the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. He served with the London Regiment, 7618, 11th Battalion. His sisters were both born in the Birmingham area: Elizabeth Victoria Leonard was born in 1878 in Aston and baptised in 1878; she married Arthur Pain in 1898 and lived in Kent thereafter. Edith Mary Leonard was born in 1881 and married Alfred Middleton in 1902 in Birmingham; she died in Burnley in 1967. Albert's mother died early, in 1895 and his father married Ella Blake that same year in Lambeth. In the 1901 census, the family also registered Cyril Douglas Fleming, as an adopted child, who was born in Strood in Kent in 1900. By 1911, he had been baptised as Cyril Douglas Leonard. It is likely that he later emigrated to Australia, marrying Florence Isabel (Louise) Matheson in 1928 in New South Wales and serving in WW2



Albert attested on 21st February 1904: 4133 and joined the 3rd East Surrey Regiment; he resided at 92 Balvernie Grove, Southfields giving his present employer in Eltringham Street, Battersea, a piano maker, Mr Munt; he was aged 17 years and 10 months, employed as a piano maker. He was 5' 31/4", 108 lbs, fresh complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair and had tattoo marks with dots on his left forearm. His records show his transfer to 1st Class Army Reserve- on the expiry of his course of army service in 1907; his conduct was very good, no offence recorded in the whole service of 3 years, a thoroughly sober and reliable man. He wore size 7 boots, size 21 helmet and gave his intended place of residence as 43 Fitzalan Street Kennington, with his desired employment as a porter in the army and navy stores. He gained one good conduct badge and had tattoos of a girl, with clasped hands and heart and the words 'true love' on his left forearm. After war was declared, he enlisted in Kingston Upon Thames and served again with the East Surrey regiment, as 8299 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Albert was killed in action on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1914 and is commemorated at Ypres, on the Menin Gate. He is also remembered on the memorial at All Souls Church, Northcote Road, St Margarets, *pictured above*. On his army records, he had named Mrs Elizabeth Wopshott as his sole legatee, and she resided at 2 Heron Road St Margarets, *pictured above*. Tragically, her own husband William Wopshott was also to die in France on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1916. Albert's father died in Lambeth in 1916, having lost both of his sons, who had died in France in the previous 24 months.