

## James Thomas Linn (Limb, Lime)



James Thomas was the first son of James Thomas Linn (born in Brixton, died in Lambeth in 1954) and Marian Smith (born in Warwick, Birmingham in 1863, died in the Brentford area in 1936), who had married in 1890 in All Saints Church, Lambeth. He was born on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1891 and baptised the following year on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1892 in St Nicholas Parish Church in Chiswick. The family, including James' s brother Frederick Albert (born in 1895), lived in the Chiswick area from 1891, firstly at Alkerden Road, Chiswick, where his father was a carpenter and his mother an upholstress, and then at 49 Wellesley Road, Chiswick. Before 1901, the family surname is recorded as LIMB. Subsequently, it changes to LINN, though Marian's death records refer to both surnames, and her husband's 1939 entry on the register. It is 'Lime' on the Memorial.

By 1911, the family was living in Isleworth, at 32 Percy Road. *See below left for a 2017*



*photo of the property.* James Thomas senior is now a coach builder at the General Motor Cab Company, originally based in Brixton, and James Thomas is a coal clerk for a coal merchant. Frederick Albert is an engineer, working at the Tramway Company. Frederick enlisted in May 1916, joining the Royal Engineers, his trade- as a Wireman. He survived the war but died in 1924.

James's military records are not available, but we know that he enlisted in Hounslow, was attached initially to the Essex Regiment (6392) and then served with the Royal West Kent Regiment in the 11<sup>th</sup> (Lewisham) Battalion (205149). He was killed in action on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917 and his body never recovered. The 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary records their involvement in the Third Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele. At the beginning of July they were in billets at Mont de Cats. By 21<sup>st</sup> July they had moved to West Outre and bivouacked there until the 24<sup>th</sup> whilst forays were made to view the ground on which the battalion were expected to form up at a later date. The ground was of 'a very greasy nature' and steps had been cut in the Railway Embankment to ease their passage. Zero Hour was 3.50 am

on 31<sup>st</sup> July. The battalion moved forwards with the Barrage, again experiencing difficulties because

of the 'heavy' state of the ground and the enemy machine gun fire. That day the battalion suffered 200 casualties from

the ordinary ranks. James Thomas was one of these.

He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals and commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. **See below left for a photo of the memorial inscription.**

He is also listed on the All Souls Memorial, Northcote Road, St Margarets. **See below right for a photo of the church.**

James was reported as missing and then his death 'presumed' in the March 1919 All Souls' Parish magazine.

