



Charles Mann

Extract: Middlesex Chronicle Dated 16th December 1916:

THE WAR - THE SOMME AND THE ANCRE - LOCAL HEROES

Mr. William Mann, the well known grower of Isleworth, has now received the definite official news that his fourth son, **Private. Charles Mann**, of the 2nd London Regiment, R.F., who has been reported as "missing " since July 1st, was killed in action. The circumstances under which this occurred are thus described by the Adjutant of the Corps in a letter to a member of the family:-

"I am very sorry indeed to have to confirm the news that your brother is missing. He took part in the attack on **Gommecourt on July 1st**, and at four in the afternoon his company made a determined attempt to reinforce same troops holding a captured position in the German lines. They were met with a **most intense artillery barrage**: the Company Commander and another officer were killed, and all the other officers wounded. Although the company dashed on gallantly, I am afraid very few of them reached the enemy lines. Towards the evening our troops were ordered to go back to our original advanced line, and on counting up the survivors it was found that a large number of the company was missing. **As soon as it was dark parties went out to bring in wounded and killed, and several of your brother's friends went out especially to find him**, but no trace was found of him. I questioned everybody I could find likely to be able to help me to decide what had become of him, but was unsuccessful. **The next day both the Germans and ourselves ceased operations for about two hours, and we went out in daylight to look for our men**. Again no trace of your brother was found. **Since then inquiries have been made at the casualty clearing stations and hospitals to see if he went down wounded, but your brother has not been traced. There remains just a chance that the Germans found him wounded and have taken him into their lines; this happened to several men, and I may say the Germans behaved well in this respect**. I cannot hold out very much hope, however. I can only add that I am personally deeply grieved at the loss of your brother, and offer my sincere sympathy to his family. He was, as you know, a signaller, and I was brought in touch with him a great deal. He was liked by us all, and as soon as we knew he was missing we did all we could to find out what had become of him."

Writing on behalf of his section to express regret at the fact that, "Charlie" Mann was missing, Pte. R. Clark states: **"Charlie never feared anything that might happen, and was always quite the most humorous and popular man in our section. We all regret the loss**. There is satisfaction and condolence in knowing that Charlie never faltered when the company went forward, and the proved what we always thought of him - that he was a gallant and brave soldier."

Private Charles Mann joined the Army during the second week of the war, giving up a good position as a surveyor, as he had just passed as an F.S.I., although only 22 years of age. He sailed for Malta four days after his enlistment, and there had his training. He was sent to France in December, 1914, where he took part in most of the fighting until the eventful 1st of July, when he fell as above described, after a gallant record of national duty, and we are sure that the fullest sympathy will be extended to our esteemed resident, Mr. Mann, on having lost so brave and promising a son." Charles was a resident of Grove Villas, 1 Woodlands Road, Isleworth. He is also remembered on the memorial at St John's and at Isleworth and Syon School, previously Isleworth County School.

**"BELOVED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM"
Grave Inscription**