



Ernest Martin

Lance Corporal Ernest Martin was born in Wokingham Surrey, lived most of his short life in Isleworth and died in a battle in France – **his body was never found.**

Ernest's mother and father, Louisa Payne and William Martin were married in the spring of 1885 in Berkshire. Their marriage produced 12 children. Ernest was their fourth child, born in 1890. In 1891 the family were living in Leatherhead. Father William was working as a Brewers Drayman and Louisa was taking in laundry. By 1901 the family had moved to 68 St Margaret's Grove, Twickenham. William was doing general labouring and Ernest is 11 and probably at school. Later, in 1911, the family are living at 22 Haliburton Road, St Margaret's (later still, moving to No.36) and Ernest is recorded as a bricklayer.

Ernest was about 25 when he enlisted in Richmond but exactly when he enlisted is unclear as there are no service records for him. However, we know he joined the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment. His British Army WW1 medal-roll card states "Theatre of war first served in, France 17.9.15." This would suggest that Ernest fought with his battalion at The Attacks on High Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Morval, and The Battle of Le Transloy. He was a hard working soldier!

In spring 1917 Ernest would have certainly fought at The Battle of Vimy and The Attack on La Coulotte, but then his luck ran out. The regimental war diary for 8th May records 'wounded other ranks – 6'. **Ernest was probably one of those six.** He was 'presumed' killed in action at The Battle of Arras (9th April-16th May). He is commemorated at the Arras Memorial, and also honoured on the Memorial at All Souls Church, Haliburton Road, Isleworth

Two of Ernest's brothers also went into the services. The eldest child of William and Louisa, William Charles, served in the Royal Navy and Frederick, a younger brother, served as a driver with the Royal Artillery (until he suffered a double hernia from 'lifting weights on active service' and spent time in Richmond Military Hospital). It appears both survived the war. **A patriotic family indeed.**



Wounded being moved by light railway from the Battle of Arras Courtesy – National Army Museum

