

Frederick Arthur Moyse



Frederick was born in Kensington in September 1895. His father, Henry (1868-1907), from Old Kent Road, London had been living at 40 King Street, Hammersmith and working as a carman. His mother, Eva (nee MacKenzie 1867-1941) from Kingston, was at the same address working as a shopwoman along with two other young men working as butchers. Henry and Eva married in June 1894 in Kensington and Frederick's brother, Ronald Henry was born in the September. His sisters Jessie, Kitty, Patty and Minnie followed. By 1901 Henry and Eva were living at 204 Portobello Road and running an offal butcher's shop. Ronald was 6, Frederick 5, Kitty 3 and Patty 7 months. Their sister Jessie, aged 4, was living with Eva's sister Maggie in Isleworth at 2 Lower Square along with Maggie's own son, Richard and daughter Winifred.



According to the 1911 census, Eva was a widow and working as a servant at 109 Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill. Frederick, Ronald, Jessie and Minnie were all living in Isleworth at 2 Lower Square with their aunt and uncle, Maggie and Arthur Grant (see left for a map of Isleworth in 1894, with Lower Square marked) Ronald, aged 16, was a steward to a merchant captain on the Castle Union Line. Frederick, aged 15, was a junior clerk in a brewery, managed by Truman, Hanbury and Buxton. Jessie was 14 and Minnie aged 6. Their cousin, Winifred Eva was 19 and working as a school teacher in Isleworth and

cousin, Richard was a pupil to a district surveyor. Frederick's 13 year old sister Kitty was registered as a visitor in Hammersmith to an elderly couple and his 10 year old sister Patty was in a workhouse in Watford. Frederick enlisted in Twickenham into the 1/8th Middlesex Regiment as Private 5170 and then joined the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) 17th Battalion where he was promoted to Lance Corporal G/43900. The 17th Battalion was known as the 'Footballer's Battalion' and was meant originally to be for professional footballers. Most of the recruits were football fans who wanted a chance to serve with their favourite players.

The 17th Battalion arrived on the Somme battlefields in late July 1916 and was engaged in fierce fighting in France and Flanders. In April 1917 the battalion was positioned outside the village of Oppy and at 4.25am on 28th April the order was given to attack the German defences. Frederick was presumed killed in action during the battles which raged all day. The war diaries of the 17th Battalion noted that:

"The remnants of the 2 Companies still holding onto the Oppy trench finally exhausted all their bombs and when reduced to about 10 all told made a dash for the OB line. 1 officer and 3 men succeeded in getting through. The troops on the 1st objective were not heard of again until a wounded officer succeeded in making his way back during the night. His evidence made it clear that these troops had fought till they were practically exterminated by the superior pressure of the enemy; the few survivors probably surrendered. Of the troops who went over the top in the morning, 1 officer and 41 unwounded men eventually found their way back while 3 wounded officers and 106 wounded other ranks were able to get back in the early stages of the fight."

Frederick is commemorated on the Arras Memorial at Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Bay 7. His mother, Eva, received his Victory medal. Frederick was also remembered in the Memorial Chapel, All Saints Church, Church Street, Isleworth.