

Cornelius Murphy



Cornelius Murphy was born in Isleworth in the 3rd Quarter of 1896. He was the son of John Murphy, a market garden labourer originally from County Cork and his wife Jane, from the Brentford area. The correct version of Jane's maiden name is uncertain. She appears in the 1881 census as Handrian, but the name also appears as Andrin, and Handrahan and on the GRO certificate, Jane's maiden name appears as Andren.

John and Jane had six children, John born in 1886, Edward born in 1890, Thomas born 1893, died 1896, Cornelius born 1896 and Kate born 1900. In 1891, the family lived in Church Street, in Isleworth but by 1901, they are living at 34 South Street, Isleworth. The house is shared with another family, Martha and Rose Lambert who are running a confectioner and tobacconist business. The Murphys had only 2 rooms. By 1911, Cornelius, aged 16, was

no longer living at home, and his only other siblings to have survived were: Edward and Kate.



In 1911, Cornelius was an inmate at St John's Industrial School, a reformatory for Roman Catholic boys in Walthamstow, being educated as a tailor. Reform schools were usually the last resort for boys who were too young to be sent to prison but who were getting into bad company, begging or were considered by their parents to be out of control. The obligatory age for

release was 19, but Cornelius may have left earlier if he showed signs of being a reformed character. He did not return home to Isleworth on his release. When he enlisted in Bradford, he gave his place of residence as Fulham.

Private Murphy (11073) served with the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). He had enlisted in 1915 and was killed in action on the first day of the Somme, 1st July 1916 and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. He is also remembered on the memorial at St Bridget's Church, Isleworth (*see above*).