



Private Charles Cecil Peel

On December 25th, 1882, Tate Peel, a joiner (1861- 1910) and Elizabeth Jane Hesleden, a weaver (1859-1940) both aged 22, married in Calverley, Yorkshire. Their firstborn daughter, Ida Mary, died young but they went on to have more children: Alfred

Victor, Maud Eliza, Florence, Charles Cecil, Dora and Irene Margaret.

They moved to Edinburgh, where Tate worked as a joiner and horticultural builder and their next three children were born in Scotland.

Then they moved south to the London suburbs. Charles was born in Brockley and baptised in St Mary's Church in Lewisham on 25th January 1894. Next they moved to Wood Green in North London, where Dora, Irene and Sylvia were born and then another move took them to the west of London, 161 Haliburton Road, Isleworth- see *photo right*, taken in 2018.

Sadly, Tate died in 1910, aged 49, leaving Elizabeth with the seven children. The youngest three were still at school but Alfred got work as a painter, Maud became a housemaid, Florence worked as a dressmaker in a furrier's firm and Charles became an errand boy.

When war broke out, Charles enlisted in Richmond as a private in the East Kent Regiment known as the Buffs. The regiment was sent to France where they encountered the German army in Meaulte, a commune of Somme in Northern France.

Private Peel was killed in action on 29th August 1915. The regiment's war diary records thus "Received news of blowing in of mine in sector D on 29th August. 3 men killed, 5 wounded. All attached to tunneling company". Then "1st September." First report of 16 missing, 2 bodies recovered dead, 4 wounded, 10 still missing". Then later "Total casualties. 4 killed, 8 wounded, 7 missing." Private Peel is not named but is probably one of these casualties.



He is remembered in the Thiepval Memorial. It commemorates more than 72,000 men of British and South African forces that died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and who have no known grave. Charles is also remembered at All Souls Church, see *photo left*, in Haliburton Road, St Margaret's, then in Isleworth, which was across the road from 161, where his family lived; his mother, Elizabeth was still on the electoral roll there in 1930, with Victor and Irene, and until 1936 with Irene. Charles's death was also reported in the All Souls' Church Magazine in October 1915, and his name was on the Roll of Honour at the Memorial Service at All Saints Church, Church Street, Isleworth, as reported in the Middlesex Chronicle on 6th November 1915.