



Private Charles Pemberton (1993) was the third son born to Jane Elizabeth Terry. Jane was born in 1848 in Ashford Kent. The 1871 Census records that 23 year old Jane is a dressmaker and living at home with her parents and siblings in the

Parish of St Paul's in Canterbury. On 28th Feb. 1874, when Jane was 26, she married William Philpott who was a Kent farmer. Sadly, William died some time before the 1881 Census as Jane Elizabeth is recorded as a widow with three young children, Frederick, Mercy and Marion. This must have been a very difficult time for her.

In the summer of 1886, Elizabeth (who has dropped her first name Jane) marries again. Her husband is William Pemberton a widower with seven children. They marry in Canterbury. Details from the 1891 Census records that Elizabeth's first-born son Frederick is living with his maternal grandparents and Mercy is working as a general domestic servant in a house in Canterbury. The whereabouts of her youngest daughter, Marion, is not known. The 1901 Census shows that Elizabeth has given birth to two more sons - Thomas Pemberton born in 1891 and Charles Pemberton born in 1894. Sadly Elizabeth is widowed again. William had died in 1900.

The 1901 Census also records that Elizabeth Pemberton, is a boarding house keeper in Herne Bay Kent. She is living with her two sons from her marriage to William Pemberton and her daughter Mercy and grand-daughter Ethel are visiting. It was probably a very pleasant place to bring up her younger boys. Hopefully the boys had a great deal of freedom on the beach and in the surrounding countryside as both boys would die young. In 1911 Elizabeth and Charles can be found living at 6A Lebanon Park Mansions in Twickenham where Elizabeth is once again a professional dressmaker. Her elder son Thomas is in the Army in Aldershot and Charles (17) is a dentist's assistant.



Courtesy of the National Army Museum
Ypres Gas Attack May 1915

There are no Army records for Charles. His Regimental Number TF/1993 suggests that he may well have joined the Territorial Force in Hounslow before war broke out, keeping this TF number. At some point Charles joined 1/8th Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) 28th Division. He entered the 'theatre of war' on the Western Front on 8/9th March 1915 landing at Havre. **Charles's first battle would be his last.** The Second Battle of Ypres began in earnest late in the afternoon of 22nd April 1915. The allies were surrounded on three sides by German forces. This seven week- ferocious battle lasted until May 31st. 59,000 allied troops were killed, wounded

or missing. It was also the first battle where poison gas was used. **After three days of fighting, Charles was killed in action on the 25th April 1915. He was 21.** He is commemorated on the Menin Gate (Ypres Panel 49 & 51) and at All Souls Church. Charles was awarded the British & Victory medals and the 1914-15 Star. His mother Elizabeth would suffer even more loss as Charles's brother Thomas would be killed on 15th August '17.