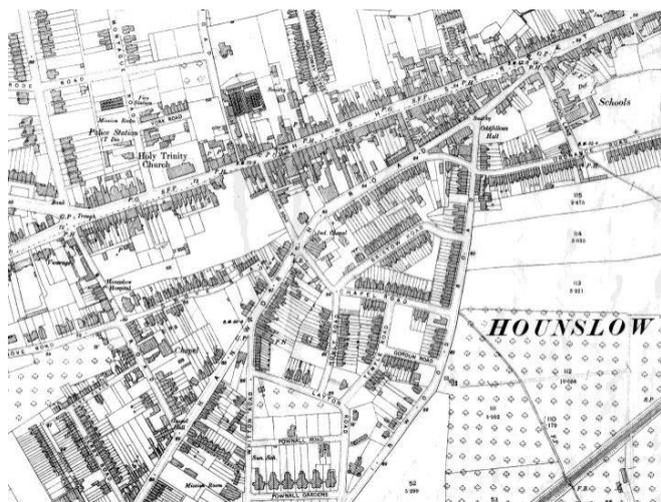


Cecil Percival



Cecil Percival (birth registered as Cecil Dudley Freemantle in 1897 in Fulham) was the son of Rosa Isabel Freemantle who was born in Hammersmith. In 1881 Rosa was living with her parents, James and Mary, at 34 Southerton Road, Hammersmith and by 1891 she was living in Chilworth Street, Paddington working as a nursemaid. Rosa married John Percival (who was born in Ripon Yorkshire in about 1871) in 1898 in Fulham. In 1901, Rosa, listed as 'Head' of house and married, was living at 67 Strode Road, Fulham with their children: Cecil (4) and John



Reginald (1). Rosa's cousin, Maud Freemantle (20), a shirt machinist, was also living there. The whereabouts of her husband, John, is not known.

By 1911 the growing family had moved to 134 Hanworth Road, Hounslow. (See *Ordnance Survey map 1895 of Hounslow. Number 134 would have been close to the Grove Road junction with Hanworth Road*). John Percival (Senior) is now 'Head' of the family and is a shopkeeper selling

sweets and tobacco. Cecil (14) is a newsboy (probably with paper rounds), John Reginald (11), Irene May (8), Frederick James (6), Richard Stanley (5), Leslie Robert (3) and Victor Albert (10 months old). They also had a boarder staying with them, Gertrude Bennett, reported as born in South Africa. Cecil enlisted in Kingston, and joined the 13th Battalion East Surrey Regiment (Registration No.17627). His death is recorded as 8th October 1917, and he is listed as 'killed in action'. However, there were no major battles on this date and the Regimental War Diaries from 1st-7th Oct indicates a period of relative calm. On the 8th the men were engaged in 'short route marches' and they 'paraded in the afternoon'. Cecil is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial that commemorates those that died at the Somme. He may have been reported as



'missing believed killed' and in the melee of warfare an administrative error was made. Cecil is also remembered on the memorial in St John the Baptist Church, Isleworth.

On 3rd Dec 1914 Cecil's younger brother John Reginald (Reg No.205676) enlisted at Kensington to fight for his country. John was living at 145 Linkfield Road, Isleworth and had been working as a hotel servant. He joined 13th Battalion London Regiment. He was 15 years old and survived the war.

