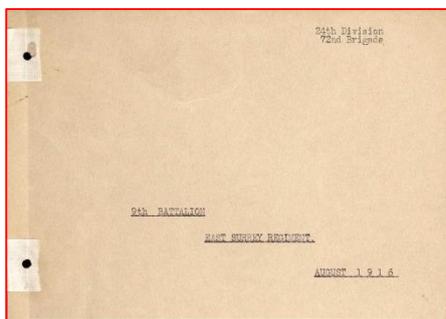




Frederick Charles Porter

Frederick Charles Porter was the first son parents John and Mary Porter would lose in World War 1. They would lose another son, Arthur Douglas, less than 8 weeks later. Neither son could be buried.

Frederick was born in the spring of 1891 and baptised on May 3rd at St John's Church, Isleworth. At the time his family lived in Denyers Cottage, Wood Lane, Isleworth, where his father worked as a labourer - probably as the name suggests, on Denyers Farm. It was a large family with nine children. By 1911, Frederick was 20 and living as a boarder in Ewhurst, Surrey, where he worked as a domestic gardener. It is not known when Fredrick enlisted but he registered at Egham and joined the 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment. His regiment landed at Boulogne on 1st Sep. 1915



Front Page of Regimental War Diaries

The Regimental Diaries (1915-1919) give a very comprehensive and complex account of the battle south-west of Guillemont (Somme) on 16th August 1916:-

"On the 12th August orders were issued for this battalion to relieve the 8th Queens Regiment on the night 13/14th August in the trenches south of the Guillemont -Trones Wood Road.

...after a careful examination of the strong point to be attacked, I came to the conclusion that it would be almost impossible to take unless it were first shelled and destroyed by 9.20 and unless the wire which appeared to lie on the sunken road were removed. I wrote to the Brigade Major ...accordingly. He replied that heavy artillery on the strong point had been arranged for, and that a 2 ¾" trench mortar would be placed at my disposal. That same day, one six inch gun attempted to hit the strong point but without success. On the 15th no heavy artillery was directed on the strong point. Orders were issued for the attack next day. Final details of the attack were penned. At 5.10pm on the 16th the artillery bombardment of the enemy lines commenced, until 5.40pm. During this...several of the 18 pounders fired short and caused casualties among our own attacking parties in the trenches. The enemy's machine guns were very active and never ceased firing. At 5.42pm all our three waves left their trenches and advanced in perfect lines towards their objective....Nearly all the men...were either killed or wounded, and only two officers and one or two NCOs actually succeeded in getting into the German's trench, they were never seen again. Wounded men and a few that were not wounded jumped into the nearest shell hole and threw bombs at the enemy until they exhausted, they crawled back to our trenches during the hours of darkness. Casualties 5 officers killed, 2 officers missing 2 officers wounded 181 other ranks killed, wounded or missing. The attack was described as a failure.

This is where Lance Corporal Frederick Porter lost his life. His body was never found and he was 'presumed dead on or since 16.8.16'. Frederick was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914-15 Star and is commemorated at Thiepval. He was also remembered in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints in Church Street in Isleworth.

