



Frederick Poynter was born in Whitchurch Hampshire in 1883, to parents Charles and Martha. He was their youngest son. Fred had two older brothers William and Henry and three older sisters, Charlotte, Emily and Eliza. In the 1891 Census, Fred's father is recorded as a Thatcher and Straw Binder, no doubt assisted by his son William. Charlotte and Henry both worked at the Laverstoke Banknote Paper Mill. The three younger children were still at school. Ten years later in 1901, the family are still in Whitchurch and have moved to Henleigh Cottages. Father Charles is still using his thatching skills but he is also farming - possibly dairy cattle as he has hired a live-in cow boy. Fred, now 17, is following in his father's footsteps as a thatcher. The 1911 Census records that Fred was boarding at 37 Eve Road, Isleworth. He was working as a 'lunatic attendant' in Hanwell - known today as the old St Bernard's Hospital. In the autumn of 1911, Fred (now 27) married Alice Lillie May Anderson (b 1882) who up until their marriage, had been working 'in service'. They married in her home town of Easthampstead, Berkshire, and went to live at 35 Mill Platt, Isleworth where their only child, Lucy was born in 1915 and baptised at St John's Church, Isleworth on January 2nd 1916. Although there are no service records for Fred, we do know that he was called up before 28th May 1916 as the Middlesex Chronicle reported that a 'violent lunatic' had attacked a nurse at the asylum – *"The attendant Poynter had been called up to join the Forces"*. Fred was not there to assist!

Fred joined the 9th Battalion Essex Regiment (Reg No. 30473) in Brentford and was 'Killed in Action' at the Second Battle of ALBERT in 1918. Family records and the photo tell us that Fred was a Stretcher Bearer. His Regimental War Diaries report: *"On the morning of 26th March.....the 9th Battalion took up position in support of 7th Suffolk Reg. which held the first line of defence on the south side of the River Ancre to the west of ALBERT. Fighting ensued.....The enemy made their first attack at 8am on 27th March and were repulsed. Later in the morning, he attacked again and succeeded in entering a small piece of our front line. Very considerable machine gun fire from the church tower and adjacent houses harassed operations....many casualties to the enemy to whom we were outnumbered 4 to 1 approx. We succeeded in holding onto the line until we were relieved at 4am on 28th".*



Fred who was 36, lost his life in this battle whilst nursing the wounded. Alice lost her husband, and their daughter Lucy lost her father. Fred's wife continued to live in Isleworth at 35 Mill Platt Avenue, later moving to 1 Kendal Road. Fred left £12 11s 11d to his widow Alice, and was awarded The British and Victory Medals. Fred's last resting place is at the Serre Rd Cemetery No.1 Nord-Pas-de-Calais France. V11.C.2/13. He is also commemorated at St John's Church in Isleworth. Alice Lillie May Poynter outlived her daughter Lucy and died in Nazareth House aged 90.

"Loving Memory Ever Clings"