

## Albert Edward Rodwell



Albert Edward Rodwell was born in 1876 in Thornton Heath, Surrey and baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1877 in St Mark's, Marylebone. His father Henry John Rodwell (1851-1921) was born in St John's Wood and was a propagator, a florist and later a gardener; his mother, Lydia Louisa Harris Southwark (1851-1899) born in Walworth, had married Henry on Christmas Day 1871 in the same church. The family was brought up in the Graveney Road area of Tooting. In the 1881 census, they were living in Selkirk Road, 4 Morley Terrace and Albert had three siblings: Harry (aged 8), Edith (aged 6) and Alfred (11 months). The family moved to Isleworth and in 1899, his mother Lydia Louisa had died. His father, a widower and his brother Percy Lewis (1883-1916), were boarding with Albert at 59 Linkfield Road, Isleworth. (See below left for a photo of the house taken in 2016) Albert was a brewer's labourer and Percy, a grocer's errand boy. By 1911, Percy had married Elizabeth, was a carman coal porter and was living in East Greenwich with his wife and three children. He enlisted in 1915 in Greenwich and served with the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own) 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion and was killed in action on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916, a few months before Albert's fate. His army records survive including the correspondence with his wife and the acknowledgement of his soldier's effects of 'two pieces of boot'.



Albert married Alice May locally in 1901 and they had Frederick born in 1916, a few months before his father's death. In 1911 they were living at 79 St John's Road. Albert enlisted in Hounslow and served with the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion (38033) and was killed in action on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1916. He was awarded the Victory and British War medals and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, a monument to the 'Missing of the Somme'. Alice remarried Arthur Sydney Rodwell locally in 1923; he was widowed in 1918, and they continued to live at 42 Hartland Road Isleworth.

In 1939, Albert and Alice's son Frederick was living with them, working as a salesman in a milk warehouse. Albert is also remembered on St John's Memorial, in his local church (see left) and was also included in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints, Church Street, Isleworth.

