

## Frederick Alfred Watkives

His name is on the war memorial as F E Watkins, but research proved that it should be F A Watkives. Even this unusual name has proved difficult to research as it was sometimes misspelt as Watkivs, Watkins or Watkwes. Frederick was born in 1893 in Fulham, and his baptism record in West Kensington shows his parents as Alfred and Alfrida May Rose Watkives.



BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>S. Andrew, Fulham</i> in the County of <i>London</i> in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and <i>ninety three</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 93 July 23 No. 79	<i>Frederick Alfred</i>	<i>Alfred Alfrida May Rose</i>	<i>Watkives</i>	<i>48 Edmont Rd.</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Edmund June 15 '93</i>



His father, a gardener, died in 1897, and in 1901 his mother, brother and sister were living in Fulham but there is no sign of Frederick, aged 7. In 1911 he was a finisher boot repairer, not living at home but in Redhill, Surrey. It's not clear when his family moved to Isleworth.

He enlisted in Hounslow and was a private in first the Northants and then The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) G/21863 formerly 45962 ? /25110. On 18<sup>th</sup> August 1917 he and 37 other men of his regiment were killed in an air raid in France while camped in a field. They were buried at Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre. He was aged about 24.

Although there is no family information in his Commonwealth War Graves Commission record (included with the permission of the CWGC), his next of kin was his mother, who was by then known as Rose Smith. After the war his brother Walter lived in Isleworth with her and her husband George Thomas Smith at 167 Twickenham Road. Later his mother lived with his sister May Watkives at 22 Octavia Road, Isleworth.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Frederick Alfred Watkives**  
21863, 10th Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) who died on 18 August 1917

Remembered with Honour  
Bertenacre Military Cemetery, Fletre

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Extract from war diary of 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, 18th August 1917

### THIEUSHOEK

16th - Training & reorganisation.  
18th On the evening of 18th a hostile 'plane dropped a bomb at 9.45 p.m. in the middle of the camp causing the following casualties

Casualties	Officers	1 wounded.
	O.R.	38 Killed
		7 Died of wounds
		61 Wounded.

There were no lights in camp at the time and the majority of the men were killed lying down in their tents asleep. In order to save a little of the pasture of the French farm three companies were herded together in a very enclosed space & in consequence of this 1 bomb caused 107

(Cont'd.) casualties. Permission had previously been asked for the use of the whole field for the camp but had been refused on the grounds of damage to pasture. The men were buried in a corner of the field & the space enclosed & registered by the Graves Registration Committee. Map Ref. of Farm. Q 29 d 9.4.

19th Funeral service for men killed by bomb.