

Eric John Wells is named on his CWGC record as the son of Frederick M. and Caroline Winifred Wells, of 1, North Street, Isleworth. He was born in Fulham in 1896, but the family moved by 1901 to 71 Lydford Terrace, Linkfield Road, and by 1911 they were at 10 Church Street. His father was a greengrocer and newsagent.



In 1911 Eric was a newsboy, aged 14. He was a greengrocer, presumably working for his father, when he enlisted in August 1914 at Richmond, aged not yet 18. He served as Private 644 in the East Surrey Regiment – in the 3rd and 1st, finally 9th Battalion. He was not sent abroad until age 19 in 1916.

The records say he was killed in action on 17th Oct 1916, but the battalion's war diary does not name him among casualties in October, and it was stationed quite a lot further south than his burial place. It seems more likely that he was wounded at Delville Wood (Somme) in August when there were many casualties, and died in a field hospital. He was buried in Villers Station Cemetery; the words "Gone but not forgotten" are on his headstone, chosen by his mother.

Badge No. and Layout	Headstone No.	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1060/15	31	GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN (Mrs. C. Wells, 1, North Street, Isleworth, Middlesex.)		

His younger brother Charles Frederick Wells had been killed in action in November 1915. They had two younger brothers who were probably too young to serve in World War 1 – Sydney William Wells and Henry Herbert Pitfield Wells – and a sister Annie. Eric was also remembered in the Memorial Chapel in All Saints Church, Isleworth.

In Memory of
Private
Eric John Wells
644, 9th Bn., East Surrey Regiment who died on 17 October 1916 Age 19
Son of Frederick M and Caroline Winifred Wells, of 1, North St., Isleworth, Middx.
Remembered with Honour
Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-Au-Bois

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Certificate and headstone inscription included with the permission of the CWGC

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Inhabitants: 297
(To be filled up by the Enumerator when required.)

The contents of this Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE that Person is on 24th Feb. 1911	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards	BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATURALITY of every person	SERVICES
1. Frederick Michael Wells	Head	38	Married 17 yrs 7 6 7	Greengrocer & Newsagent	Green, Devon	English	
2. Caroline Winifred Wells	Wife	38	Married 17 yrs 7 6 7	Assisting on the business	Worship, Fulham	English	
3. Charles Frederick Wells	Son	15	Single	Newsboy	Worship, Fulham	English	
4. Eric John Wells	Son	14		Newsboy	Worship, Fulham	English	
5. Sydney William Wells	Son	10			Isleworth	English	
6. Henry Herbert Pitfield Wells	Son	9			Isleworth	English	
7. Annie Wells	Daughter	3			Isleworth	English	

Isleworth 390

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Frederick Michael Wells*
Postal Address: 10 Church Street, Isleworth, Middx.