

Bertram (Bert) Harry West

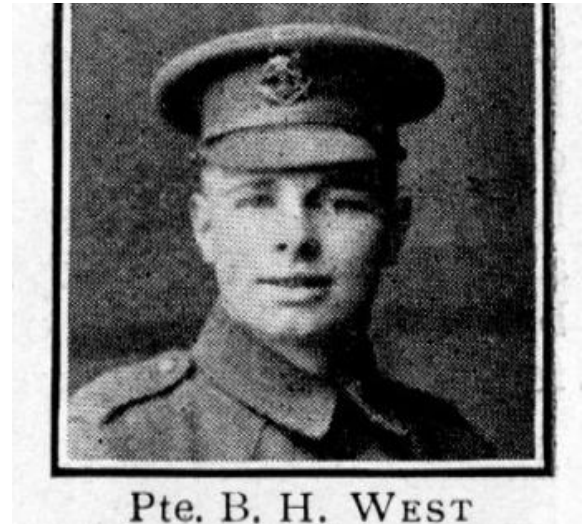
Bert was the son of Walter William and Edith Esther West, of 15 Aylett Road, Isleworth. He was born in Sussex, and his parents moved to Isleworth by 1901. His father was a builder's labourer. In 1911 Bert was working as a roundsman for J Lyons catering firm, whose HQ was at Cadby Hall, Hammersmith; his elder brother Thomas was a porter there. But by the time he joined up, in August 1914, he was employed in Isleworth at the Pears Soap Factory.

He joined the 1/8th Middlesex in Hounslow, which was sent to France in March 1915. He was later transferred to the 13th (Service) Battalion, date unknown. In June 1917 they were involved in the Battle of Messines, south of Ypres in Belgium. In the aftermath, the battalion's war diary records that they were "consolidating and strengthening a new line under persistent heavy shelling, especially at night". On 21st June Bert was wounded in both knees. One leg had to be amputated, but he succumbed to his injuries six days later. He died at 17th Casualty Clearing Station, at Remy Siding, now the site of Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery where he was buried. He is commemorated on the memorial in St John the Baptist in Isleworth, and was also remembered in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints, Isleworth.

Members of his family continued to live in Isleworth after the war, including his younger brother Lewis Walter West, and his sister Nellie who married Ernest Lingwood and had a son Bernard. His other sister Kathleen Marion West married Arthur Stanley Evans.

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, soon after the war

Photo: Sansen-Vanneste



Pte. Bertram Harry West, 24 (Died of Wounds), 13th Middlesex Regt. (West Melting House). He joined the 1/8th Middlesex in August 1914, and afterwards transferred to the 13th, which was sent to France. In the battle of Messines on the 21st June 1917 he was wounded in both knees. One leg had to be amputated, but he succumbed to his injuries six days after.

Bert's death reported in the Pears staff magazine

