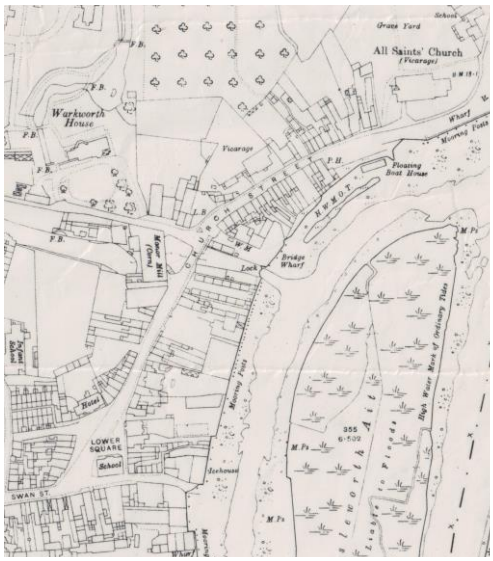
Edward Dargan

was born in Isleworth in 1896. He was the fourth of ten children born to Thomas and Mary Dargan. Thomas was a waterman born in Cork, Ireland in 1862. His family had moved from Ireland to Isleworth around 1863. The name is sometimes spelt Dargon or Dorgan. In 1901 and 1911 the family was living in 28 Church Street, Isleworth.

Edward joined the army and East Surrey regiment in 1911, enlisting in Kingston, giving his age as 17 years and 5 months. In fact he was only 15. Father Green, the parish priest of St Bridget's in Isleworth, seems to have given Edward a character reference. He may also colluded in the lie about his age, thinking the army would be a good choice of career for him. Edward gave his job as a butcher's roundsman.



Church Street, Isleworth c1915 Ordnance Survey Map

Edward's cousin Henry William Dargan (son of Thomas's brother Dennis) had already joined the army in 1910.
Edward and Henry both died in 1918. Henry died of pneumonia on 1st November, while Edward died in Mesopotamia on 11th November, the day the Armistice was signed.

He was a Driver in the Royal Engineers and is buried in the Roman Catholic plot in the Deolali Government Cemetery in India. He is also remembered on the St Bridget's Memorial in Isleworth below

The view from Church Street, Isleworth in 2015 where the Duke of Northumberland's river enters the Thames, taken from close to where 28 Church Street would have stood.