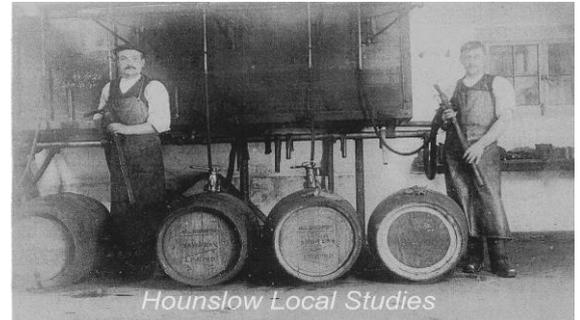


William Thomas Happs



William Thomas was the son of Thomas James Happs (born in 1840 and baptised at All Saints Church, Isleworth and died in 1923) and Emma Jane Webb, (born in 1853 in Westminster and died in 1935 in Luton.) His parents married at St John's Church in Isleworth in 1886 and William Thomas, their oldest child was born in 1888. William Thomas had three brothers: James Henry, born in June 1889, Frederick, born in 1893 and Frank George, born in 1896 as well as a sister, Jane May, born in 1891. They lived at 6 and then 3 Winkworth Cottages, Linkfield Road, Isleworth and by 1911, when their father was a pensioned maltster from Isleworth Brewery, they were in Farnell Cottage, Brewery Wharf, Church Street. In 1911, William Thomas was a bottlewasher, James Henry a bran packer, Jane May a domestic servant, Frederick a van boy and Frank George, a newspaper boy.

Before he married, William Thomas's father, Thomas James, travelled to New York from Liverpool on the H Fish, arriving in April 1872 with his brother Edward and wife, Lucy nee Jupp, and George and his wife Sarah Elizabeth, nee Muskett. Thomas James returned to England, leaving the other four to build their futures in America. William Thomas's brother, Frederick, died in WW1 in Belgium in July 1917. William's other siblings, Frank survived to 1973 in Braintree in Essex and Jane Evans (nee May) died in Luton in 1935; On the day before his 55th birthday in June 1944, his other brother, James Henry, was helping women and children to safety in a shelter after a 'Doodlebug' attack, and died when he caught the tail end of the blast. In 1917, James's first son was named James William Frederick Happs after his two brothers who were killed in WW1.

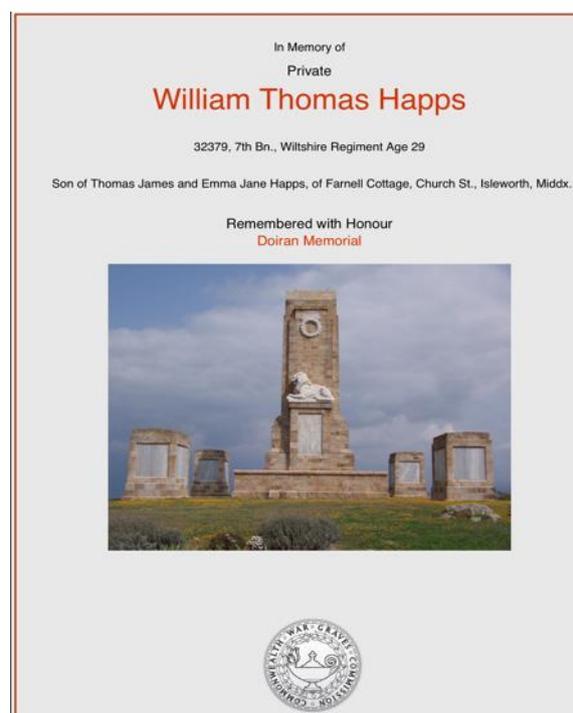


Above: Isleworth Brewery, The Racking Room. This was purchased by Farnell in the early C19th. He developed cottages for the staff

William Thomas attended the Wesleyan Chapel in North Street and was one of the 'Wesleyan Warriors of Isleworth', whose names were reported in the Middlesex Chronicle in July 1915 as serving in the forces and having their names displayed in the church. Originally in the 6th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, he was transferred to the 7th Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment, in action in the Balkan Theatre, losing his life, missing and presumed dead on 24th April 1917. He is remembered on the Doiran Memorial, Greece, commemorating more than 2000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Macedonia and whose graves are not known, and also at All Saints Church, Isleworth.



The Happs family around 1900, William Thomas standing top left. Photo with the kind permission of the Happs family.



The certificate is included with the permission of the CWGC