

NORRIS T.S.A.
NORTON O.
NORWOOD W.I.

Owen Norton

Owen was born in 1888 to Charles and Ada Norton who lived in Wandsworth. Owen had an older brother Arthur and older sisters May and Edith. By 1901, this growing family had moved to Lydford Terrace, Linkfield Road in Isleworth and more sisters were born – Ada, Olga, Phyllis and Esme! In 1911 the family were living at 16 Napier Road. Owen's father was a window blind-maker and shop fitter, and after his schooling, Owen himself, was a waiter.

In 1905, when Owen was 18 years old he joined the Army's military reserve force that was known at the time as the 'militia'. This was a part-time voluntary force (that was transformed into the Special Reserve in 1908). Militia regiments were attached to units of the regular army. Owen appears to have been employed as an officer's servant for eighteen months. Later, when he transferred to the Regular Forces in Army Service, Owen obtained splendid references:-

"Honest, sober, hard-working, intelligent and reliable."

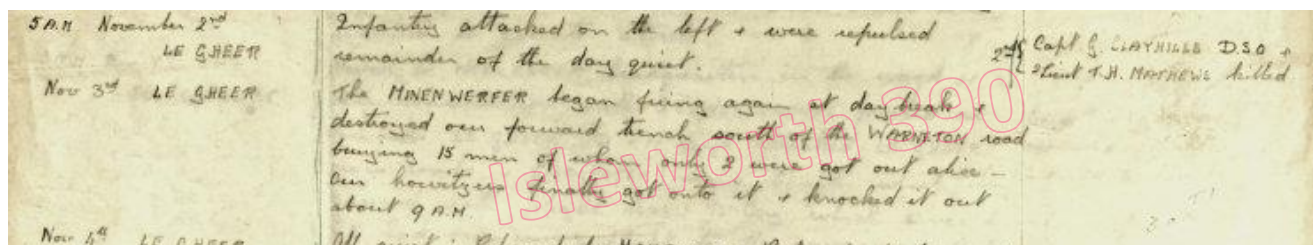
"I have much pleasure in stating that Owen Norton has been in my employ for several seasons. I have always found him, honest, no temper, thoroughly respected – a really good steward".



16 Napier Road

Before the outbreak of WW1, Owen was stationed in India for 4 years (where he contracted Malaria!) and he was then stationed in South Africa for two years.

On his return, Corporal Owen joined 1st Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment with effect from 12th March 1914. Later that year, Owen Norton was 'killed in action' on 3rd of November 1914 at Ploegstreert in Belgium. He was 26. His body was never recovered. Below, is a paragraph from the Regimental War Diaries of his Battalion and Regiment dated 3rd Nov. Owen may well have been one of the thirteen soldiers that died in that forward trench. Owen is commemorated on the Ploegstreert Memorial Panel 5 & 6. He had only been in Belgium for 9 months.



Nov 3rd Le Gheer: The Minenwerfer began firing again at daybreak and destroyed our forward trench south of the Warneton Road burying 15 men of whom only 2 were got out alive. Our howitzers finally got onto it and knocked it out about 9AM.

