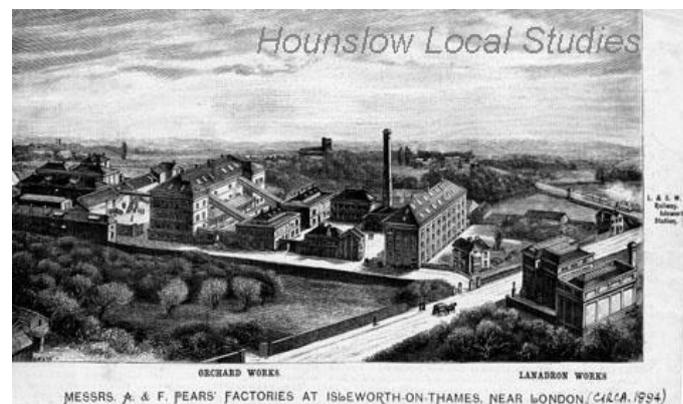


Walter Annis



Walter was born in Balham on 26th February, 1874, baptised there on 14th June and by 1891 was living at 2 Brewery Cottages, St John's Road, Isleworth and working as a factory hand, a soap refiner in the nearby Pears Soap factory (see below for a photo of the factory). His elder brother William (born 1873) worked as a warehouseman and his younger sister Annie (born 1880) was at school. His parents had married in Wandsworth in 1871. Robert, a coachman, had died in 1884 aged just 38. His mother, Elizabeth Fanny Gilham was born in Feltham and worked to support her three children as a laundry worker. By 1901, the family had moved to 1 Brewery Cottages, Isleworth and Elizabeth was still working as a wash worker / laundress. Annie was still at home, working as a dressmaker. Walter's brother William is married to Margaret and they have a daughter, Constance, aged 3. William is still a warehouseman in the soap factory and they live in 1 Myrtle Cottages, St John's Road Isleworth. Walter married on 5th August 1911 in St John's Church, Isleworth to Emily Annie Bolton, daughter of late Regimental Sergeant Major Charles Bolton and they had two children: Robert Walter born 23/5/1912 and Annie Evelyn born 7/5/1914.



This photograph was taken in 1904 and inscribed on the reverse by Walter Annis - "To Sister & Brother, Pat & Will. From Wal, Sitapur, 30. 12. 04." Cabinet Photograph G. W. Lawrie. – Photographer Lucknow, Naini Tal, Bareilly and Ranikhet India and is owned by theAnnisfamily2012 through Ancestry.

Walter enlisted on 30th January, 1893 into the 1st Battalion (33rd Foot) Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. He is listed in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour as having been educated in the church school in Isleworth and described as being 5 ft 5 ¾ ins, hazel eyes and dark hair with a scar on his forehead, a diamond tattoo on his right forearm and a cross and anchor tattoo on his left forearm. Walter was promoted to sergeant in December 1896. During his initial 21 years with the colours he saw active service with his battalion during the Anglo-Boer War. He was entitled to the Queen's South Africa Medal with the clasps "Paardeberg", "Driefontein", "Relief of Kimberley" and "Transvaal" and the King's South Africa Medal with the clasps "1901" and "1902". After South Africa he was deployed to India with his battalion and finished out his enlistment of 21 years, being discharged at the Lahore Cantonment on 29 January, 1914. Walter volunteered in September 1914 and joined the 6th Royal West Surrey Regiment as Colour Sergeant Major, service number 1207. He served in France with the expeditionary force from 1st June 1915. His Battalion took over a relatively quiet sector of the line beginning at Ploegsteert Wood and eventually extending some 7000 yards south to Armentieres. Walter Annis was one of those wounded on 25 July, 1915 and the following day, he died from the wounds and is buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord. Walter is also commemorated on the memorials in St John's Church and All Saints, Isleworth.