

## Henry Thomas Cope



Henry Thomas was born in 1887/8 in Fulham, the son of Charles Cope (born 1857, Wallingford, Berkshire) and Emily Eliza Parratt (born 1857 in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, married in St James Church, Bermondsey on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1884). Charles's father was recorded as a coal merchant's agent, Emily's father as a baker, Charles as a gardener. The family lived in Fulham in 1891 and then in The Chestnuts, Ailsa Drive, Isleworth in 1901 and in 1911 at Rose Cottage, St Margarets. On the 1911 census, Charles recorded that they had ten children, eight of whom were still living. Charles William (25, a postman), Edwin John (24, a postman), Henry Thomas, (23, a postman), Mabel Ellen (19), Robert Douglas (17, a railway clerk), Alfred Sidney (14) and twins:- Alice Edith (10) and Herbert Stanley (10); he was still a gardener. Henry was a member of the Thames Valley Rifle Shooting league and took part in local competitions with Chiswick, Twickenham and Isleworth, as reported in the Middlesex Chronicle on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1914.

Henry Thomas married Edith Alice Bryant on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1914 in St Stephen's Church, St Margarets. He was then living at Lansdowne Villa, St Margaret's Road and Edith at Drayton Lodge in the same road. They had a child, Henry, born in 1916. Edith married Leonard James Bradford in December 1918. Henry's effects were left to his wife, Edith. These amounted to £2, 14 shillings and 7 pence on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1917, and an additional £3 in 1919.

Rifleman Henry Thomas Cope (B/200562, and formerly 6176 6<sup>th</sup> City of London Rifles) enlisted in Twickenham and served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in the Rifle Brigade (the Prince Consort's Own). He died of wounds on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1916 and is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery. Etaples was behind the lines, an important base for the British Army and the location of 16 military hospitals. It is likely that Henry died in one of these hospitals. He is remembered on the Twickenham Post Office memorial, as well as at All Souls Church, St Margarets. His brother, Robert Douglas Cope, had died two months earlier in the Somme.



*The Twickenham Post Office Memorial to their employees who lost their lives in WW1*



*The Chestnuts, Isleworth, and surrounding area in 1894-6. Ordnance Survey map. The Cope family are recorded as living here in the 1901 census.*