

## Alfred Denton



Alfred, the twin brother of Walter, was born in 1867 in Moulton, Northamptonshire. His parents John (1827-1910), an agricultural labourer, and Hannah Brains (1829- 1895) a neighbour, had married on April 9<sup>th</sup> 1849 in the Parish Church in Moulton. Alfred had two sisters: Sarah Ann, born in 1859 and Jane, born in 1862; both were in domestic service in the Northampton area by 1881. His six brothers were: William (1857-1917), who had settled locally with Sarah Ann Mabbutt after 1878; George (1850-1931), who had married Ann Barber in 1871; John (1853-1914) a milkman, who married Lucy Ireland in 1911; he had joined the military at Warwick and served in the 28th Foot from 1878-1890, including in India 1878-1888; Samuel (1855-1883) who lived at Althorp Dairy; Walter (1867-1906) Alfred's twin brother, who worked as a clicker, in the boot and shoe industry, and married Mary Ann Claydon in Northampton in 1891. Owen (1869-1944) was the youngest son, and described his occupation as an excavator. He married Emily Treadwell in 1895.



Alfred, like his brother John, joined the military, returning to the Northampton area by 1911, where he was living with his wife- Sarah Ann Perkins, whom he had married in 1895 in Brentford. She was born in Cork in Ireland and had married John McCormack in 1886 in Hounslow. Sarah was the daughter of a Staff Sergeant, William Perkins, then a widower, who was also living with them in 1911. They returned to the Brentford area and were living at 80, North Street, Isleworth (see left) by 1918.

Alfred's military career spanned much of his life and covering different periods of service, with his regimental numbers of 7362; 7266, 7006 and 282362 He enlisted initially on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1884, in Weedon in Northants and served in the UK and also in India from 1888-1891. He received good reports on his military conduct throughout his service but had several periods in hospital, including 10 days for Ague in 1905, believed to have been contracted in India. 1907,

he was discharged from Bordon Camp, Hampshire, termination of engagement with RFA, 101st Battery, aged 41, with a scar on the outer side of right elbow. At the outbreak of the War, and despite his actual age of 47, whilst working as a relief stoker at the Brentford Union, he signed up again in October, as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery. His height: 5'8"', weight 129 lbs, dark complexion, fragile eyes, scar still above his right elbow. He served at Home 31/10/14-17/12/15; France- 18/12/15-6/4/16; and then Home:7/4/16-26/7/17 and was discharged after this. From April 1916, his health was very poor and he was hospitalised several times, including with the diagnosis of carcinoma of the stomach in the summer of 1918. Alfred died on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1918 and was buried in Isleworth Cemetery. His wife, Beatrice, received his medals and effects. His headstone (see right) includes an inscription to Beatrice and her father, William Perkins.

