George Gathergood (Dowden)

George was born in 1898 in Hampton and baptised on11th December 1898 at St Mary's Church, Hampton. He was the second and youngest child of Winal Gathergood and Rachel Gathergood, nee Enstone and had an elder brother named Joseph William Gathergood, born in Hammersmith in 1896. Winal was a pipe-laying foreman, who had been born in Norfolk, Rachel was a local girl, born in Brentford.
In 1902, Winal died and in 1903, Rachel remarried and the family moved to Isleworth. George's stepfather was Thomas James Dowden, a track labourer born in Hayes. Thomas and Rachel had three children: Violet Dorothy born in 1903, Christopher James born in 1910 and Thomas James in 1912.
In the 1911 census, George is described as a schoolboy aged 12. He attended Worple School and the Green School and the family lived at 21 Worple Road, Isleworth. ***See below left for a 2018 photo of the property, originally called Hope Cottages and built in 1866, according to their plaque.***

George's military papers don't tell us when he joined up but it was probably in about 1916. He served, as private (68691), with the 7th Battalion, Royal West Surrey Regiment and died from his wounds in France on 10th August 1918. He is remembered at the Pernois British Cemetery, Halloy Les Pernois. His name is also recorded on the St Bridget's Memorial - ***see below right.***

George's name appears on the Isleworth Memorial twice: as George Gathergood
and also George Dowden.

George's brother Joseph married Florence Kembell in Hounslow in 1920. His eldest son (born in 1926) was named George. On the 1939 register, Joseph was a grocer and provisions dealer in Eton; George's mother is living at 25 Worple Road with her husband Thomas, a handyman at a motor garage, and her son Thomas, a master tailor. Joseph died in 1976, and their mother, Rachel in 1953.