

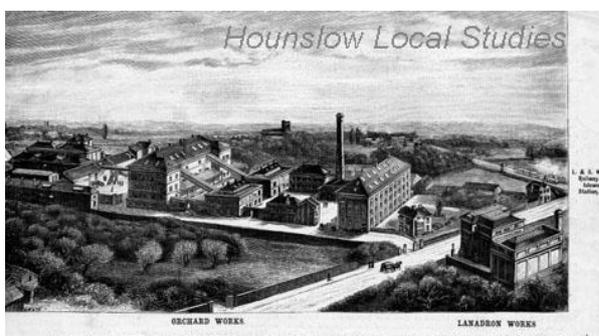
Lionel Percy Gulliver



Lionel Percy Gulliver was born in April 1896 in Addlestone, Surrey and baptised on 3rd June, 1896 at St Paul's Addlestone. His father, Sydney, was born in Chalk Bower in Wiltshire and his mother, Sarah Ann (née Carpenter) came from Wisley in Surrey. They had married on 2nd March, 1889 in Wisley and both Sydney and his father Josiah gave their professions as groomsmen. Lionel Percy had three older siblings: May Matilda born in 1890; Sydney Henry J born in 1892 and Hanna Winifred L born in 1894. The 1901 census shows the family living at Hop Kelm Meadow, Dover Place in Malling, Stansted. Sydney is working as a Traction Engine Driver. The younger two children are both listed by their middle names (Winifred and Percy).

By 1911 the family had moved to Isleworth and were living on the London Road at 4 South Western Terrace. On the census, Sydney described the home as having a parlour, kitchen and three bedrooms. Both Sydney senior and junior are working as steam wagon drivers; Winifred is a domestic house maid and Percy is a greengrocer's help. His mother, Annie, has a 5 year old nurse child staying with them called Jack Rigglesford from Guildford. In 1911 his sister May Matilda has moved to Lower Woodford, Salisbury where she was working as a domestic companion aged 21 to Edmund Sidford, aged 50 and a farmer. Interestingly there are other Gullivers working for Mr Sidford: her uncle Morgan (58) is a farm bailiff; her aunt Lucy (51) is the housekeeper and her cousin Hubert (21) is a farm worker. May married Hubert in September 1915 in Amesbury and kept her surname intact!

Percy enlisted on 8th September 1914 at Hounslow into the 1/8th battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. He was private 3512 in the Territorial Force. On his enlistment papers he is described as being 5' 6 1/2", aged 18 years 5 months and working as a labourer at the Pears Soap Factory.



Left: Pears Soap Factory, close to where the Gullivers lived in Isleworth

Above: Percy in his uniform. The photo is included, courtesy of his family

Percy spent the first 5 months at home, then embarked on 1st February, 1915 at Southampton for Gibraltar. He left Gibraltar on 23rd August, 1915 and sailed to Egypt where he stayed for 4 months. He returned to Alexandria for a further tour of duty and was part of the reinforcements who left Egypt on 8th May, 1916 and landed at Marseilles on 15th May, 1916. From here they travelled by train to Rouen and joined the 1/8th on the Western Front on 15th June, 1916. Percy was killed in action on the field on 26th June, 1916. He was awarded the British War Medal 1914-19, the Victory Medal and the 1914/15 Star. He is buried at Hebuterne Military Cemetery and remembered as the son of Sydney and Annie Gulliver of 444 London Road, Isleworth. He is also commemorated on the memorial in St John's Church, in Isleworth.