

## Joseph Humphrey Harrington

In 1911, Joseph Humphrey Harrington and his older brother Daniel lived with their parents, Humphrey and Mary Ann Harrington, at 8 Town Wharf Isleworth. Father Humphrey was a market gardener. This was Joseph's mother's second marriage. Mary's first husband, Dennis Dargan (Dargon, Donaghan, Dorrigan), whom she married in 1879, had died in 1890 leaving her with six children.



It appears that her last child with Dennis, Henry William (also on the Isleworth Memorial) was born within a few weeks, maybe even days of her husband's death. It must have been a very difficult and worrying time for Mary Ann. It is not surprising that her first three boys joined the army. A few years later, in 1893, Mary Ann and Humphrey had their first son together Daniel Harrington. The couple married in 1895 and in 1897 Mary gave birth to another son, Joseph Humphrey .

Some 17 years later, an article in the Middlesex Chronicle dated Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 1914 reads *“Mrs M Harrington of 9 Queen’s Terrace, has the honour of having given the whole of her five sons to the service of King and Country. These are: Cpl (Thomas) Dargon, 12<sup>th</sup> Division of the Signal Section of the Royal Engineer (who also served throughout the South African War); Driver Dargan (Daniel), Army Signallers, Royal Engineers (who is now at the front); Pte John Dargon 13<sup>th</sup> Batt., Middlesex Reg; Pte Henry W Dargon, Rifle Brigade; and Pte Joseph H Harrington 4<sup>th</sup> Batt., Royal Fusiliers. The mother of these gallant warriors says, with laudable pride: I feel that my sons should be entered on the Roll of Honour, as I have no more to serve His Majesty the King, and I think I have done my little towards my country and King by contributing all my boys.”*

Only three of Mrs Harrington's sons came back to her. There are no service records for Joseph. We know from the above article that he must have joined up sometime in the first few weeks of war, following his brother's footsteps. He fought with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers and was *killed in action* at the Battle of Bellewaarde (also known as The Battle of Hooe) on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1915. This little known battle took place on a small battlefield (only about ½ mile square.) It was a ferocious battle. In less than 12 hours 1000 men were killed - most having no known grave. Many others were wounded. Joseph's body was never found. He was 18 years old and is commemorated at Ypres on the Menin Gate By-6. He is also remembered on the Memorial at St. Bridget's and was included in the Memorial Chapel at All Saints Church, both in Isleworth.

