

William John Holloway



William John Holloway was born in Brentford in 1886 to Alfred, a gardener's labourer from Chesham in Buckinghamshire and Mary (née Basting) from Chorley Wood in Hertfordshire. By 1891 the family were living at 6 Queen's Square in Richmond Road, Isleworth and had 4 other children: Edith Mary born 1880; Alfred Thomas born 1883; Ellen born 1888 and Mabel Rose born 1890.

According to the 1901 census, William's family had moved to 1 Queen's Terrace, Isleworth and they had 4 more children: Sydney born 1892; Emily born 1895; Rose born 1897 and Arthur born in 1900.

By 1911 William had set up home with Eliza Caroline Douglas whom he married in June 1911. They were living at 106 Worple Road, Isleworth and William, aged 26, worked as a market garden labourer. Eliza gave her occupation as housekeeper. Next door at 104 Worple Road resided the rest of his family: Dad Alfred now 52 still worked as an agricultural labourer; Mary now 49 had 12 children during her 31 years of marriage. William's sister Edith Mary aged 30 was working as a cook for 3 sisters and lived at 8 Queen Anne's Grove, Bedford Park, Chiswick.



106 Worple Road, Isleworth in 2017

William and Eliza had a son William in 1904 and 3 daughters: Emily in 1905; Ellen in 1907 and Edith in 1909. They also had another son, Harry, in March 1912 who sadly died at birth.

William enlisted in Hounslow into the Rifle Brigade where he was made a Corporal in the 8th Battalion service number S/6253. He saw active service in France from 4th August 1915 until he was killed in action in Arras on 11th April, 1917 aged 32 and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 9. He was awarded the Victory and British medals and the 1915 Star. His death was reported in the Middlesex Chronicle on 28th April, 1917.

His platoon commander wrote: *"He was killed with two of his comrades by a German shell, during the early stages of the battle which is still in progress. His death was instantaneous and without pain. I cannot speak too highly of your husband, both as a soldier and as a man. He was a universal favourite by reason of his courage, his cheerfulness and his ready, willing disposition. As commander of my bombing squad, he did extraordinarily good work both in and out of the trenches, with the result that the section was by far the best in the company. Judging from your husband's character, I knew that he was a good husband and a good father"*

He is commemorated on the memorial in All Souls Church, Northcote Road, Isleworth and was also remembered in All Saints Church, Isleworth.

William's widow remarried in September 1921 to Thomas C Noke and they had a daughter, Phyllis I Noke in June 1924. They lived at 56 Dawes Avenue, Isleworth. By 1939 Eliza and Thomas had moved along the road to 27 Dawes Avenue. Phyllis worked as a biscuit packer and married John Hurst in Ealing in December 1947 and had 3 children: Ann D in June 1948; Peter J in June 1950 and Julie P in June 1952.

Ann married Michael J Dean in Hounslow in March 1968; Julie married Brian C Hope in Richmond in June 1972 and Peter married Gillian P Layson in Hounslow in March 1978.