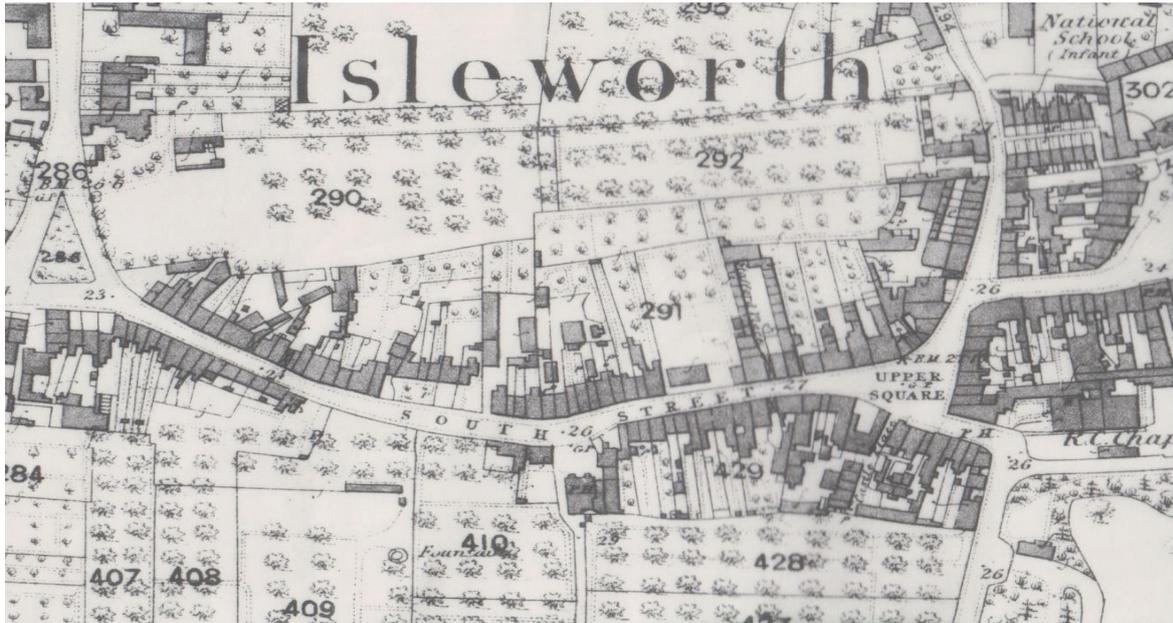


Thomas Joy



Thomas was born in Ireland, as were his siblings, in Kerry, in 1876, the son of David (1836-1916) and Johanna Joy (recorded as garden labourers). He is first mentioned on the 1881 census, as living in 14, Stafford Place, South Street with his parents, and siblings:- Bartholomew (C1863-1916 and an agricultural labourer, who was also the father of Patrick Joy recorded on the Isleworth Memorial and at St Bridget's, who died in 1914, and with whose military life and death, Thomas appears to have been confused); Patrick (born C1866) and Johanna (born C1871). In 1891, Thomas is an errand boy. In 1911, his parents were living at 33 Magdala Road, Isleworth

Below: Ordnance Survey map C1865 of South Street, Isleworth showing Stafford Place.



Thomas had a long military career. He enlisted with the Sherwood Foresters in 1894, having served before that date with the East Surreys. His military history records his service in the East Indies (1896-1899), in South Africa (1899-1902), in China (1902-1904) and in India. He received the Good Conduct and Long Service medals, as well as the South African medal with two clasps, 1901-2; the India medal of 1895 and the Irish (1897-98), also the Queen's South African medal clasps. He was finally discharged, as Drummer Joy (4509) in 1913, after 18 years' service, and at his own request, aged 34 and at this time was 5'6", of fair complexion and blue eyes. His conduct and character, when with the Colours, was 'exemplary'. His intended place of residence was 57, Dale Road, Derby.

Thomas married Louisa Hannah Jex in Newark on 10th July 1909, and had these children: Thomas born in 1909 in Newark, Nellie Louisa born in 1912 in Derby, William, born in 1914, and George in 1923, both in Derbyshire. In 1933, Thomas Joy (junior) married Isabel Crowder at St Augustine's Church, Derby. Thomas (Senior) worked at the Malleable Iron Foundry in Derby. He died at home (43 Dale Road, Derby) on 23rd May 1931, aged 55, as a result of acute bronchitis, asthmatic bronchitis and emphysema. On the anniversary of his death, his wife included this notice in the Derby Times, May 1932:- "JOY: In loving memory of my dear husband, Thomas Joy, of 43 Dale Road, late Sherwood Foresters, who died May 23, 1931- From his wife and family."

Lance Corporal Patrick Joy, Thomas's nephew from Teddington, died on 23rd August 1914, aged 21. His body was never recovered and death was presumed. The Middlesex Chronicle, 10th October 1914, lists a Thomas Joy (Patrick's uncle) as being among those missing. The entry follows on from the previous page where a list of wounded Royal Fusilier soldiers is given, so it seems likely that the entry should read P. Joy. This, together with the deaths and dispersals of the family, may also be the source of the incorrect idea in 1915 that Thomas Joy, his uncle, had been killed. Thomas was also recorded on the St Bridget's and All Souls memorials