



Leonard Charles Norris (16 June 1897 – 28 September 1918)

Leonard was the son of Percival Thomas and Alice Norris (nee Hornblower) who married in 1890 in Mile End Old Town, London. Percival was born in Gosport in Hampshire and Alice in Mile End Old Town, London. In 1901 the family were living at 65 Meadow Road, Lambeth and Percival was working as a Carman. Leonard was born in Lambeth and was baptised in St Saviour’s Church, Poplar.

Percival and Alice had 6 children but only 4 had survived by 1911 so Leonard grew up with his parents and three brothers. They were Percival George (born in Mile End 1892), William Phillip (born in Lambeth in 1899) and the youngest, Reginald Frank, who was born in Lambeth in 1901.

In the Census of 1911 the family were living at 23 Castle Road, Isleworth. Percival (senior) was working as an Engine Fitter and Percival (junior) was employed as an Office Clerk. Leonard was aged 13 at that time.

Leonard enlisted in Hounslow as a Private in the 12th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. His younger brother William also joined up as a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment (42280). During the war William was awarded the Military Medal for an act of gallantry or devotion to duty. The youngest brother, Reginald joined the Royal Navy with the rank Boy Second Class in 1916 (J61621), He was aged nearly 16 and trained as a Signaller. Both William and Reginald survived the war.



23 Castle Road, Isleworth

On 28 September 1918, Leonard’s Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment was involved in the final advance in Flanders along a 16 mile front to recapture the Passchendaele and Ypres Ridges. In heavy rain the troops advanced over the waterlogged battlefield. That day the 12th Battalion stormed and captured a heavily defended German strong point known as The Bluff. This achievement gave the Allies the advantage of a key strategic observation site.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
NORRIS Leonard C.	Suff. R.	Pte	63255
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	R/1103 B/3 2540		
BARRAGE	do do		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

Medal Index Card for Leonard Norris

Leonard died of wounds on 28 September 1918 at the age of 21. This was about 6 weeks before the end of the war in November. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in West Vlaanderen, Belgium. He is also commemorated at St John’s Church.