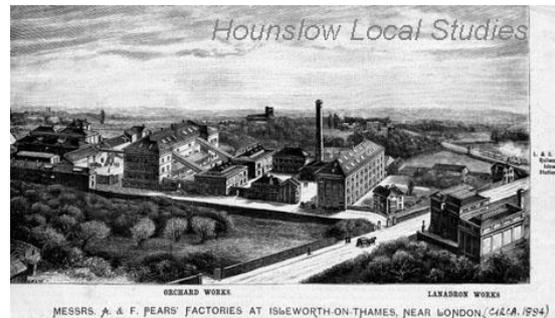


## Frederick Percy Packard



Frederick was born in March 1896. His parents, William and Annie (also known as Maria) had married in Wandsworth in November 1882 and Frederick had one sister, Dorothy Annie who was three years older than him. In the 1901 census, Frederick and Dorothy were staying with their uncle and aunt, John and Naomi Jordan, in Stoke Hammond (address - centre of village!) whilst their parents were boarders at 604 Chiswick High Road aged 43. William was a tram driver born in Marlesford in Suffolk and Annie (nee Maria Bray) was from Stoke Hammond in Bucks. They had 4 children in total, but only 2 survived. By 1911, the family are living at 178 Linkfield Road in Isleworth (**See photo below taken in 2016**). Dorothy now 18 is working as a sewing machinist - upholstery and Frederick is a shop assistant in a grocers.



When Frederick enlisted into the army on 18th September, 1914, aged 18 1/2, he was working as a labourer at the Pears Soap factory (**see above right**). He joined the 8th Reserve Battalion Middlesex Regiment as Private 3540 and sailed from Southampton to Gibraltar on 1st February, 1915 where he stayed until 23rd August, 1915. He embarked to Alexandria on 2nd December 1915 and then was part of the expeditionary force in France, landing at Rouen on 8th May, 1916. He was involved in fierce fighting at the Somme from 13th June 1916 to his death from his wounds on 26th June, 1916. His Pears factory fellow workers learnt that he had volunteered that day to fetch the tea for his colleagues but was shot in the head by a sniper on reaching the top of the trench. He is buried in the Couin British Cemetery, grave ref 1. B. 4. The cemetery was begun in May 1916 by the field ambulances of the 48th (South Midland) Division, and was used by units and field ambulances during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It was closed at the end of January 1917 because further extension was not possible, and now contains 401 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and three German graves. He was awarded three medals: the Victory, British War and Star medals. He is also remembered on St John's Memorial in Isleworth (**See above right**).

