



Corporal Harry Peacock (95693) was born in Isleworth in 1894 to parents, William John Peacock and Amy Grimes. His parents had married in Fulham in 1884, and lived their married life in Isleworth- firstly in Hanover Terrace on the London Road, and then at No.1, Whitethorne Cottages, Tolson Road (1901) and later No. 19 Tolson Road (1911). Their last move was to 12 Algar Road. Harry (b.1894 and officially named Henry) had one older sister Minnie, and two older brothers William and Percy. By 1911, his parents had two more sons, Herbert and Arthur, followed by daughters Winifred and Gladys.

In 1891, Father William is listed as a carter and later in 1901, his occupation is recorded as a Coachman - both occupations relate to dealing with horses. Ten years later, William is a potman, probably working in a public house washing pots and suchlike. Their parents must have been relieved when their sons started bringing money home from their work as a milkman, a packer and an errand boy. It must have been a struggle to feed and clothe their children and it is hardly surprising that two of their sons Percy and Harry joined the army. **Tragically both sons would lose their lives.**

There are no Army Service Records for Harry Peacock but he did enlist in Kingston upon Thames where he joined the Royal Horse Artillery & Royal Field Artillery B Battery, 47th Brigade. May be he had developed a love of horses from his father. His medal roll card records the he entered the Theatre of War on 22nd May 1915 and was thus eligible for the 14-15 Star, British and Victory medals. The sheer numbers of army personal and army units involved in the Royal Field Artillery is complex, however, the Register of Soldier's Effects records that Harry did not die in battle, but he '**died of illness**' on 9th July 1918, aged 25 and was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery.

The exact nature of his illness is not recorded but this was the year of the influenza pandemic that claimed the lives of between 20-40 million people around the world. It is well documented that in the Spring of 1918, soldiers were complaining of sore throats, aches and pains. The crowded trenches made the rapid spread of the illness inevitable. The total number of men admitted to Casualty Clearing Stations suffering from influenza between 18th May – 2nd July was 36,473.

Harry's older brother Percy signed up in Nov 1915. He was reported missing and presumed to have been killed in action on 22 July 1916. Only his identity disc was returned to William and Amy in October 1917.

