



Private George Peake (also recorded as Dougal) Reg. No. 17952 was the son of parents, Samuel and Annie Peake (nee Sinclair), who were married on the island of Bute in Scotland in 1871 where Samuel was a serviceman with the Royal Navy, serving for over 13 years. The couple had eight children. Their eldest sons, Samuel and John, born '77 & 80 (both in Donegal) joined the Royal Navy and the Army Service Corps where they had a long army careers. John was a much respected soldier "honest, sober, reliable and intelligent". George too was born in Donegal (1884) and was named Dougal Alexander. William and James were born in County Mayo and his sister Mary and youngest brother Albert were both born in Kerry. The family probably moved with Samuel's work locations.

It is unclear exactly when Samuel and his wife Annie came to live in Isleworth with their family. Isleworth was Samuel's birthplace and so he knew that the surrounding fields were rich with market gardens that needed labourers. After his naval career, he would be able to find work there. In 1899, the family can be found living in a dwelling house at 8 Queen's Square, Isleworth. Just two years later the 1901 Census records that George (16), his brother William (14) and his father Samuel (54) are all working as market gardeners. Only George's mother Annie (47) and the three younger children James (10), Mary (9) and Albert (5) are at home during the day. Sadly, not long after the Census was taken, George's father Samuel (55) died leaving Annie with the five remaining children to bring up alone. There must have been some very difficult years for Annie who also went out to work in the market gardens. In 1904, Annie's only daughter Mary died from heart failure. By 1911 Annie is an 'inmate' in the local workhouse.

In 1901 George had been working in the gardens of Marsh Farm in Twickenham. He was 17 years old and was probably not enjoying the monotony of the job. With a father that was ex-Navy and a brother John making an army career for himself, it is no surprise that George was keen to join up too. Later that year, George completed the Militia Attestation form under the name 'Dugal' Peake and joined 5th Bn Royal Fusiliers with a regimental number 3511. He could be called upon to serve his country if needed. There is also a strong possibility that George went 'off the rails' during his twenties with several court appearances. Maybe this is why he used the name George instead of Dougal? Thirteen years later, with WW1 underway, George enlists in Hammersmith joining the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He first served in the Theatre of War on 1st April 1915. The Second Battle of Ypres raged from 22nd April – 24th May 1915. The 2nd Dublin Fusiliers took part in these terrible weeks of violent warfare. George was there too and was killed in action on 9th May 1915 aged 30. He had served for 39 days. George is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres, Panel 44 & 46. He was awarded 15 Star and the Victory and British Medals. Dougal is also commemorated on the St Bridget's Memorial in Isleworth. George's brother John Peake lost his wife to pneumonia in 1915. **Younger brother Albert (recorded as 'alias James') also served with the 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and died from wounds at Cambrai in Aug 1914.** William (sailor in the Royal Navy) married Harriet West in 1918. Perhaps their marriage was a little bit of happiness in a family marred by such tragedy?

