



Walter Putaress Pocock (Q3 1893 – 12 June 1917)

Walter was the son of John and Emily Pocock. John was born in Sindlesham, Berkshire and Emily in Stanwell, Middlesex. In 1901 the family were living at 27 May Road, Twickenham and John was working as a Domestic Gardener. They had 5 children who survived infancy. Walter was the eldest and he had three younger brothers Ernest Roland (born 1897), Edwin George (born 1899) and Harold Cecil (born 1904). He also had one sister, Flossie Rhoda born in 1902. The three eldest children, including Walter, were born in Berkshire but the two youngest, Flossie and Harold, were born in Isleworth. Walter attended the Blue School.



By 1911 the family were living at 10 Worples Road in Isleworth. Walter's father was still working as a Gardener and was employed by the Board of Guardians. Walter himself, then aged 17, was also a Gardener working in a market garden. Brother Ernest, aged 14, was employed as a delivery paper boy while the three younger children in the family were still at school.

Walter enlisted into the army at Hammersmith right at the beginning of the war on 8 September 1914. He was aged 21. Initially he joined the Royal West Kent Regiment as a Private and was first sent to France on 30 August 1915. In January 1916 he rose to the rank of Corporal and was in charge of a machine gun. On 25 March 1917 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and became a qualified aerial gunner on 3 May 1917. He worked a Lewis gun on one of the aeroplanes in the 11th wing of the 45th Squadron. On 12 June two British Sopwith 1 ½ Strutt aircraft collided in the air during an escort to a recce. Both planes were completely wrecked and Walter's pilot, 2nd Lt R S Watt and the other two-man crew lost their lives. Walter died in a French hospital from injuries he received in the accident. He was aged 23. His father John Pocock was his named next of kin and he was living at Elizabeth Cottage, Mill Plat, Isleworth at the time of Walter's death.



Sopwith 1 ½ strut airplane in 1917
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Two of Walter's brothers also enlisted. Edwin became an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy and Ernest joined the Black Watch regiment in the army. Ernest was twice wounded but both he and Edwin survived the war.

Walter is commemorated at the Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery in France. He is also remembered on the memorial at All Saints Church.