

## Donovan Poulter



Donovan was born in Streatham in 1893. His parents, Jessie Carpenter and Douglas Ford Poulter, had married in Croydon in 1891. Douglas Ford (1865-1907) was born in Hackney. His father, Thomas Poulter had established a wholesale stationers firm and family business at Globe Works, Rupert Street, which then became Thomas Poulter and Sons. Douglas Ford was working there in 1891, just before he married, when his family were living at North End Lodge, Wildwood Terrace in Hampstead. Douglas was living with his parents, Thomas and Diana, his married sister, Lydia Hancock and her son, a cook and two servants. Donovan's mother Jessie (1866-1943) was born in Stoke Newington and was living at Fairlaure, Dunhered Road North, Croydon in 1891, just before she married, with her parents, Henry and Alice, her sister, Alice, another relative and two servants. Douglas Ford and his father and family were also linked with the Blacksmith trade and through this, Douglas Ford received the Freedom of the City in 1889 from the Chamber of London.

Jessie and Douglas Ford had two children: Donovan, and Terence Winchester, born in August 1903 in Wallington. By 1911, they were living at Lavender Vale Wallington, Beddington, Surrey, Jessie had been widowed four years earlier, and Donovan (aged 17) was working as a clerk as an employee at a land estate agents. Terence (aged 7) was at school, and Jessie's married brother Sidney was also with them at the time of the census. Sometime later, but before 1923, they moved to Isleworth.

In 1911, as reported in the Chelmsford Chronicle, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, Donovan attended the funeral of his uncle, Major Thomas James Poulter, who by then was a director of Thomas Poulter and Sons, stationers, and had served for 27 years with the Rifle Brigade, including in a commissioned rank.

Donovan enlisted into the same regiment as his uncle, the London Regiment, and served with the 5<sup>th</sup> (City of London Battalion, London Rifle Brigade), 301947 and 2987. They travelled to France and lost heavily at Gommecourt on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, when Donovan also died. He was awarded the British and Victory medals and was re-buried in Bienvillers Military Cemetery in France. His headstone was inscribed 'Eldest son' on the CWGC record; details were provided by his mother Jessie Carpenter, who was then living at 7 Borough

Road Isleworth. Jessie and her son, Terence Winchester lived at 7 Borough Road, Isleworth until her son's marriage to Ivy Cowley in 1934; they then moved to 50 Thornbury Road, Isleworth- see left for a photo taken in 2016. In 1938, Terence attested with the Royal Artillery (1473591). He died in 1990.

