

Richard William Henry Prout



Richard was born in June 1892 in Teddington. His father, Richard James Prout and his mother, Emily Jane Lock, were working as servants to Clara Blumenthal, a Professor of Music from Hamburg, Germany and living at 1 Broomfield Gardens in Richmond at the time of the 1891 census. Richard and Emily had married in Bromley in September 1890; they only had the one child, Richard William Henry who they called Harry. In 1901, the Prouts were living in Manor Road, "Stoke next Guildford". Richard aged 31 was a house decorator, listed as coming from Chelsea and Emily aged 33 was listed as coming from Harlow in Essex. Their son, Richard aged 8, was born in Teddington.

By 1911, the family had moved to Isleworth and were living at 46 Steele Road. See *below left for a photo taken in 2016*. Harry, now 18, was working as a watchmaker and jeweller's assistant in Teddington. His parents were heavily involved in the Hospital demonstration and procession around Isleworth in the autumn of 1915, aiming to bring the needs of local hospitals to the community and make street collections.



Harry joined the Coldstream 2nd Battalion as Private 17297 and saw active service in France. When he enlisted, he was living in Southall. On 12th February, 1916 he married Florence Filbey at St John's Church, Southall Green. He was already

enlisted as a soldier and gave his address as Caterham Camp, Surrey. He returned to France and was listed as missing, presumed dead on 21st - 26th September, 1916. His mother contacted the Middlesex Chronicle that carried a report about his being still missing on November 25th 1916.

His battalion had taken over from the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry on 20th September in trenches opposite Lesboeuvs. The 2nd Battalion stayed there until 25th September when they supported the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and 1st Battalion Irish Guards on an assault on Lesboeuvs. Although they succeeded in clearing the enemy out of their trenches and from the village, they sustained heavy losses, amongst them Harry Prout. His parents continued to live at 46 Steele Road until his father's death in 1961. Emily died in 1940. Harry is also remembered at All Souls Church, and at All Saints, both in Isleworth.

