

John William Rapley



John William Rapley was the son of John Rapley, a brewer's labourer, (1862-1890), who married Emily Ann Stevenson (1864-1943) on March 22nd 1885 in the Parish Church in Twickenham.



John William's parents, photo courtesy of Mary Brown.

John William was baptised on August 16th 1885 at St John the Baptist Church in Isleworth; his parents were then living at 35 South Street Isleworth. He had a brother Edward Frank, baptised on 20th May 1888, and a sister, Emily Caroline born in 1890 and another brother, George Frederick, baptised on 19th September 1886, who died the following year. In 1891, and after his father's death, the family were lodging in the Rising Sun Cottage, London Road, Isleworth, by 1901, they had moved to 2 Worple Road, Isleworth and John was a cardboard box maker, living with his mother, a charwoman and his sister and brother.

John William married Florence Hann, aged 20 in Holy Trinity Parish Church in Richmond on March 4th 1906; they were then living at 15 Albert Road, Richmond. Florence's father was Samuel Hann, a mechanic. They had three children: Violet Emily Lilian Rapley, born 14th July 1906 and baptised on August 19th 1906, in St Mary Magdalene and St Matthias Church, Richmond; Dorothy Florence Rapley, born Richmond October 29th 1909, baptised at the same church on November 28th 1909; and Eileen Ellen Rhoda, Rapley born 30th January 1914, who was living in Durban, South Africa in 1985 aged 75 and on the Voters' Register as Eileen Ellen Rhoda Alley. By 1911, John's family had moved to 7 Talbot Cottages, Albany Passage, Richmond and John William was a soap maker.



*John Rapley's Headstone:
Hooqe Crater Cemetery*

John William enlisted in Kingston, as a Private with the East Surreys, 1st Battalion 21830. He was killed in action on 10th October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele and buried in the Hooqe Crater Cemetery, 4kms east of Ieper town centre in Belgium. He was awarded the Victory and British Medals.

Florence married Philip Michael Artz in Richmond in 1918; he was a soldier discharged on grounds of ill health and cancer in 1917 from the Cape Police. John William's mother, Emily Ann continued to live at 2 Worple Road, Isleworth and on the 1939 register, her daughter Emily Caroline, was living there too, previously as a waitress but then on disablement pay. Emily Caroline died in 1975 in Lambeth and her mother died in 1943 in Brentford.