



## Francis George Slade (Q1 1892 – 23 June 1918)

Francis was the son of Eli and Mary Slade (nee Jeffries) who married in Uxbridge in 1887. Eli and Mary were both born in Berkshire. Eli was employed as a Brewer's Labourer. They had 9 children. They were Edith (1887), Edward (1889), followed by Francis in 1892, then Elizabeth (1894), Richard (1898), Ethel (1902), Alfred (1904), Ellen (1906) and Rose (1909). All the children, except Edith, were born in Isleworth. Francis was baptised at St John the Baptist Church in Isleworth.

In 1901 and 1911 the family were living in Linkfield Road, Isleworth. In 1901 they were resident at Winkworth Cottages, 5 Linkfield Road but by 1911 they had moved to number 186. Francis was then aged 19 and employed as a Shop Assistant. In June 1915 Francis married Annie Eliza Hill in Brentford and they had a son, Norman Francis George Slade, born in August 1916.



St John the Baptist Church, Isleworth

Francis' brother Richard enlisted in May 1916 at the age of 18 and served in both the East Surrey Regiment and the Royal West Kent Regiments. He rose to the rank of Sergeant and survived the war.



26 Castle Road, Isleworth

Francis enlisted in the Buffs (East Kent) Regiment and was a Private in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion. In June 1918 his battalion was near Puchevillers in northern France. On 16<sup>th</sup> they marched to Harponville Wood and relieved the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Highland Light Infantry on the Front Line. Overnight on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> June there was a heavy allied artillery bombardment of the enemy. Following this the Battalion sent out four reconnaissance patrols who could not complete their mission as they were met with considerable rifle and machine gun fire resulting in 2 soldiers being killed and 9 being wounded. Enemy retaliation was very severe on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with a further soldier killed and 6 more wounded. No further casualties occurred in the next few days.

Francis died of his wounds on 23 June 1918 at the age of 26. He is buried at Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport in northern France. John is also remembered at St John's Church.

His wife Annie was living at 26 Castle Road, Isleworth at the time of his death and was still there in 1939 with her son Norman. Annie died in 1977.