



William Walter Talmer (30 April 1886 – 22 January 1920)

William was the son of Clara Jane Talmer. He was born in 1886 in Amersham in Buckinghamshire. He had a younger brother Sidney Ayers Talmer who was born seven years later in 1893. In 1897 Clara married James Keen in Amersham, Buckinghamshire. Clara and James then had 5 children, so William had three half brothers and two half sisters. James was employed as a carter on a Farm.

In 1901 William, aged 15, was living with his mother and stepfather in Charteridge Cottage in Amersham with his brother Sidney as well as two half siblings, Arthur and Amy Keen. He was a Blacksmith's apprentice.



25 Nottingham Road, Isleworth

William enlisted in the army in Oxford as a Private on 4 June 1903 at the age of 18. He joined the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry serving in both the 3rd and 2nd Battalions. He spent more than 6 years with the army in both India and Burma. In 1911 William was on leave from the army at the time of the Census. He was staying with his uncle, Benjamin Talmer in Clump Cottage, Lee Common, Buckinghamshire. After serving for 8 years he transferred to the Army Reserve in May 1911. He gained employment at the Brentford Gas Works and worked there until the outbreak of war in 1914.

In February 1912 he married Florence Margarett Nash in Brentford. They had two children, Edith Margarett born on 26 July 1913 in Hayes and Sydney Walter born on 8 June 1914 in Brentford. As a member of the Army Reserve William was mobilised right at the start of the war on 5 August 1914. He was posted to France on 23 November 1914. He served as a Private with the

2nd Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry until June 1916. His Battalion took part in the Battle of Festubert (9-16 May 1915) and the Battle of Loos (25 Sept-8 Oct 1915) and suffered more than 1000 casualties. When he was discharged having served his full period of enlistment, his military service was described as "exemplary" and he is described as "a thoroughly steady, sober and reliable man".

After the army William returned to employment at Brentford Gas Works. However, he was required to demonstrate that he was undertaking work of national importance to the local Middlesex Tribunal to maintain his exemption from further military service.

In October 1918 William was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the lung and was granted an army pension. He died of TB on 22 January 1920 at the age of 33. He is buried in Isleworth Cemetery in Park Road, Isleworth and remembered at St John's Church. His next of kin was his wife Florence who was living at 25 Nottingham Road, Isleworth. Sadly, that same year, William and Florence's daughter, Edith, died at the age of 7. However their son, Sydney, married Vera Ashby in Brentford in 1938, was living at 8 Percy Road, Isleworth in 1939 as a shoe salesman, Deputy Manager, and he remained in the Hounslow area with his family. He served in the Royal Artillery in World War II.



Gravestone in Isleworth Cemetery