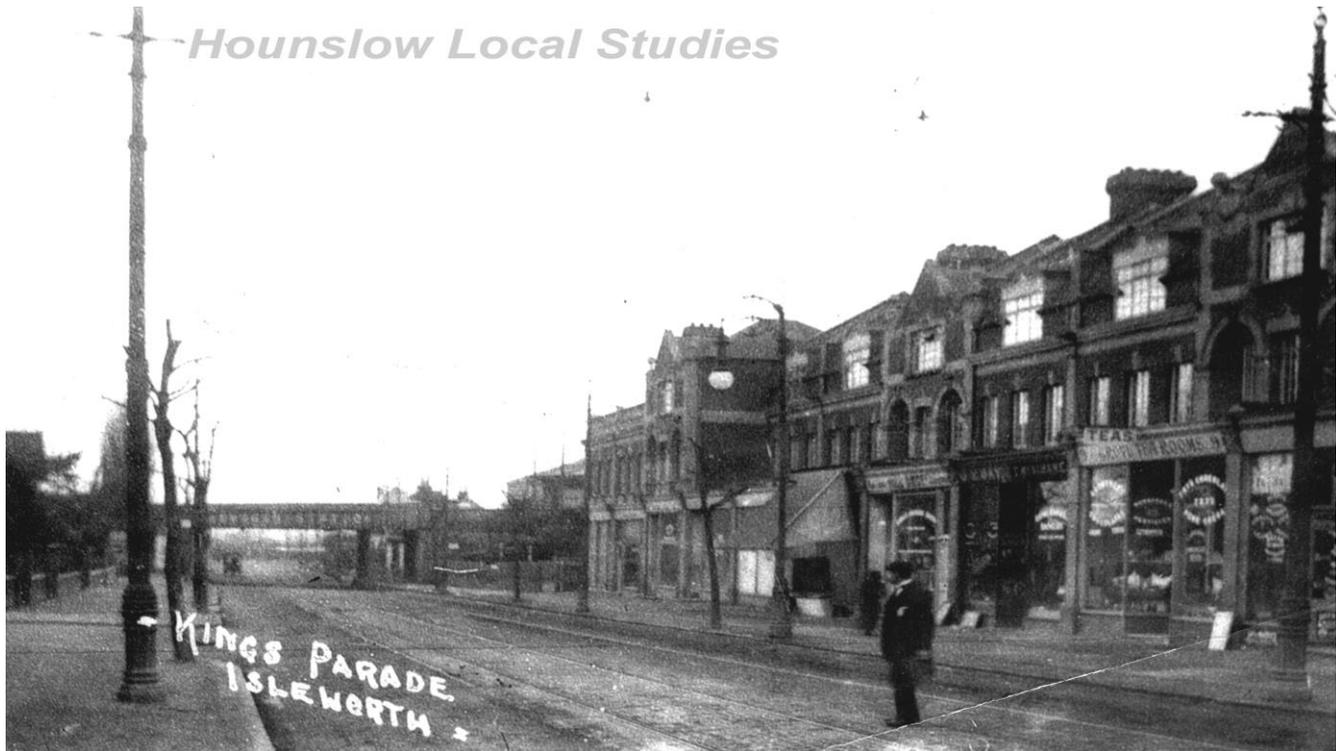


## Percy Todd

Percy Todd was born in 1880 in Radford, Nottinghamshire. He was the youngest child of Ezekiel Todd, a gardener, later to become a pork butcher and his wife Elizabeth, nee Rutter. Elizabeth and Ezekiel had 12 children in all, only eight of whom survived. Percy's siblings were: Frederick (born 1863), Emily (born 1865), William (born 1866), Rebecca (born 1868, Elizabeth (born 1869), Alice (born 1871), George (born 1873) and Fanny (born 1878). Percy left home fairly early and moved to London to work as a draper's assistant. In 1901, he was working in a large draper's shop at 307-315 Walworth Road, and living in the dormitories over the shop. The owners, Rutter Bros, were bought out by Marks and Spencers



in 1913. Also at the shop in 1901, was a 22-year-old cashier, Alice M Powell. Percy and Alice married at St Faith's in Wandsworth in 1907. By 1911, they were lodging at 105 Holloway Road and Percy was working as a draper's assistant. However by 1915, Percy had improved his status; he had become manager at Bryan's Drapers, 1-2 King's Parade, London Road, Isleworth. He and Alice were living in a flat over the shop. Percy attested at Hounslow in November 1915 under the Lord Derby's Scheme and was mobilised in June 1916, as a private in the 11<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. His medical examination described his physical development as good, but noted slight varicose veins in both legs – probably as result of standing all day at a shop counter.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders took part in the final Battles of the Somme in 1918. Percy was killed in action on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1918. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Arras Memorial and also at St Mary's Spring Grove (see image on the right). He received, posthumously, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

