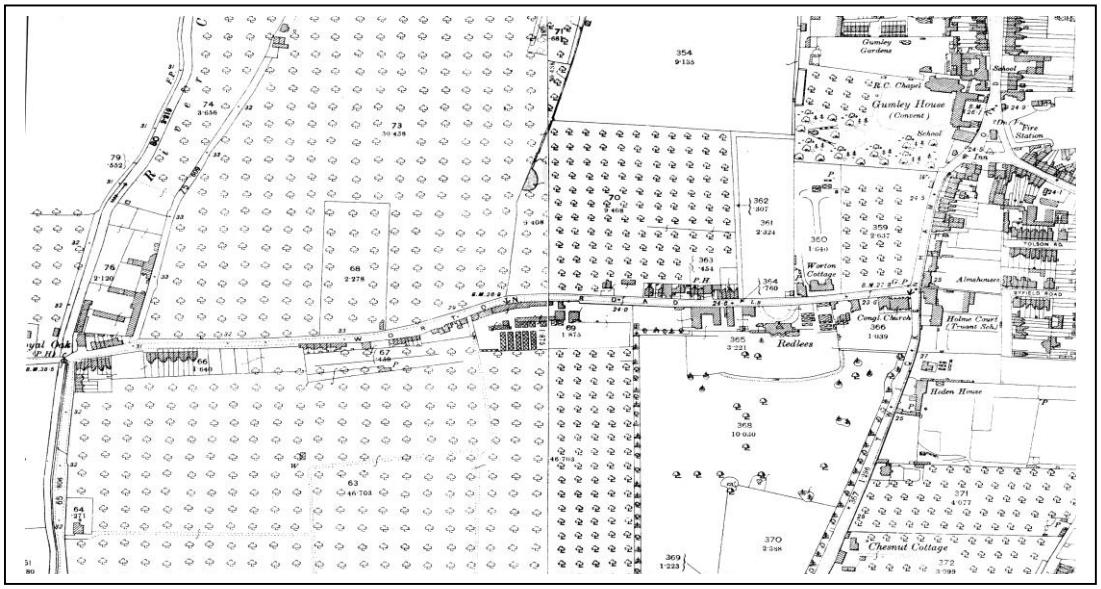
Harold Frank Upton

Harold Frank Upton was born in Barnes in 1886 to Charles Thomas Upton (1851, Stepney- 1920) and Mary Ann Busch (1857 Lowell, Massachusetts- 1932).He had five siblings, all alive in 1911: Charles Francis, Caroline Elizabeth, Lilian Gertrude, Florence Edith and Ethel. In the 1891 census his father's occupation is recorded as a railway porter but by the 1901 census the family had moved to live and work in a market garden, next door to the Jolly Gardeners pub in Twickenham Road, Isleworth- ***see photo below taken C1920*.** Harold attended the Blue School in Isleworth and followed his father into the market gardening business. His mother was American, born in Massachusetts and his eldest sister, Caroline, was born in New Hampshire USA.

When war broke out in 1914 Harold joined up on 5th September 1914 in Hounslow, and enlisted in the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment and was transferred to the 11th Royal Fusiliers. He saw action in France and was reported as wounded in the Middlesex Chronicle 4th November 1916. He was later transferred to the Labour Corps, Agricultural Company 427. The Labour Corps provided the manpower in a wide range of non-combative roles and supporting agriculture at home. Many soldiers were transferred to the Labour Corps if they were no longer fit. Probably Harold was already suffering from tuberculosis, when he was discharged from the army in February 1918. He died on 16th October 1919 at his home in Holly Lodge, Worton Road, Isleworth from laryngitis, as a result of tuberculosis. He never married so his mother received his British War medal and his Victory medal.



His sister, Lilian Gertrude, married Charles William Edwards, a solicitor's cashier in 1907, and in 1911 they were both living with Harold's family in Holly Lodge, Worton Road, Isleworth- (***see 1895 map of Worton Road, Isleworth above, Holly Lodge is likely to have been on the South side, approximately under the R and T of Worton).***

Charles William had attested voluntarily in 1915, but applied for exemption in 1916. This was supported by his solicitor's firm, and also by Charles Thomas Upton, on the grounds that his part time services in the market gardens were indispensable, given that his son Harold was on active service in France. The Middlesex Tribunal papers on this case (V871) are filed in the National Archives and include a supporting letter from Harold regarding his brother in law. They also reveal that Harold's brother, Charles Francis, died in Australia during the Tribunal hearings in 1916 and left his widow, Florence Edith, with two children to support. Charles William survived the war and was recorded in the 1939 register, living in Sussex as a solicitor's manager.