

Thomas Edward Watson



Thomas Edward was born in 1897, and baptised at St John's, Isleworth on May 16th, the son of George Watson (1860-1912), born in Bexley Heath in Kent and Sarah Mary Field (1861 -1937) born in Shepherd's Bush. They had married on 1st May 1881, at St John's Church in Isleworth. George was a carpenter, the son of Thomas Edward Watson, a grocer, and Sarah Mary Field, was the daughter of Daniel Field, a gardener; they were both 'of full age'.

Thomas Edward had nine brothers and sisters, all still alive in 1911, when living at 148 Linkfield Road, Isleworth. Previously the family had lived in 1 Eton Cottages on the same road. His siblings were:- George Daniel (1882- 1951) a carpenter, he served in both the Navy and RAF in WW1, married Eva Minnie Grace Swannell in 1911, and was living at 14 Loring Road Isleworth in 1939. Rhoda May (1884-1968), married William Tyler, a horsekeeper (butchers) in 1908 and had moved to Hove by 1939. Florence (1886-), in domestic service with the Eva family in Shrewsbury House in 1901, a cook with the Rabbidge family in Twickenham in 1911. Margerite (1889-), the third domestic in a house in Ealing in 1911, Gertrude Maude (1891-1973) a domestic housemaid in Chiswick in 1911, in 1913 married Frederick William Groom in Isleworth, Beatrice Ann (1894-1961) in domestic service with the McDermot family in Twickenham in 1911, married Walter Swallow in 1916 and was living in Leeds in 1939; Henry Alfred (1899-), married Ada Faulkner in 1918, a house painter and a hospital patient in 1939; Charles Frederick Watson (1901- 1934), served in the Royal Navy from 1919-1928; Kathleen (1904-), married Edward Perks in 1926 and was living with her mother's husband, Thomas Gibbs, (married Sarah Ann Watson in 1914) in her family home, 148 Linkfield Road, Isleworth in 1939. Thomas Edward had emigrated to Australia, possibly travelling on the Irishman from Liverpool to Sydney in 1912.

Private Thomas Edward (537) a farmhand, joined the 41st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force on 18/02/1916 in Lismore, New South Wales. He sailed on the Demosthenes from Sydney to Plymouth, arriving on 20/07/16, after nearly 8 weeks at sea, then sailed on to France in the SS Princess Victoria in December 1916. He was treated in hospital in January and returned to the field shortly afterwards and was killed in action on 23rd April 1917, in France, and buried initially just North of Ploegstreet, 3 miles north of Armentieres, before burial in the Strand Military Cemetery. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory medal. Will: "I give £20 between my brothers and sisters and I give £5 to Miss L.M. Champkin (3 Lynton Villas, Wellington Avenue, Hounslow) and I give the remaining part to my Mother (Mrs M Gibbs, 148, Linkfield road, Isleworth)". He is also remembered on the memorial in St John's Church, Isleworth, see left and below

