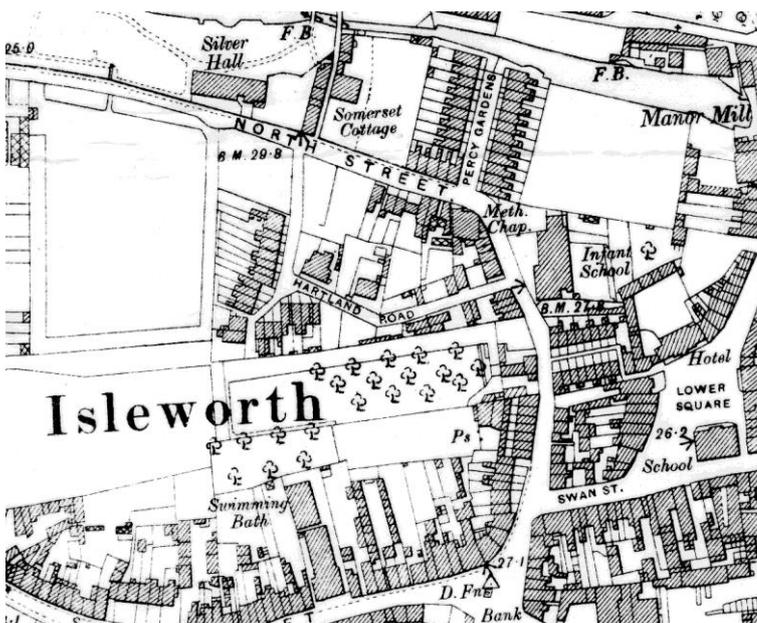


Wilfred Thomas Welling



Wilfred was born in the 3rd Quarter of 1899 to William Fleckney Welling, a baker of bread from Aldbury in Hertfordshire and Eliza (nee Long) from Harrow in Middlesex. They married on 23rd May, 1885 in Battersea. The family moved from Spicer Street in Battersea via Chiswick and Acton to settle in North Street in Isleworth where they are recorded as living in the 1901 Census at 3 Dorothy Cottages. Wilfred was the youngest of 10 children: he had two brothers William, aged 15 and Charles, aged 14 and 5 elder sisters: Annie, aged 13; Eliza, aged 12; Emily, aged 8; Edith, aged 6 and Florence, aged 3. By 1911, they had moved to 56 North Street and Wilfred's father was working for the Brentford Union Works as a baker and Wilfred had two more sisters: May Gertrude and Ethel Lilian.



Wilfred enlisted in Hammersmith at the age of 16 and was a driver for the Royal Field Artillery, L/1798 as part of the 40th Divisional Artillery Column. This division was formed in Autumn 1915 of regulation height and shorter men. They assembled at Stanhope Lines, Aldershot and were trained at Blackdown, Pirbright and Woking. They moved to France between 2nd and 6th June, 1916 and by 9th June had concentrated near Lilliers.

Wilfred died of concussion in the field on 12th July, 1916, having been

thrown from his mule whilst out for a morning run with his section, and is buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, grave ref 11. C. 41. He is commemorated as the son of William Thomas and Eliza Welling of 56 North Street, Isleworth. He received the British War Medal and Victory Medal. Wilfred was also remembered in All Saints Memorial Chapel, Church Street Isleworth. The Middlesex Chronicle of 2nd September 1916 carried a full report on his death. Wilfred attended the Blue School and was then employed by Mr Balch, the butcher, before going to the Rubber Factory. He was a member of the Brotherhood Social Club, where his father was the secretary. Ironically, his parents had written to him to ask whether they should try to obtain a discharge for him, given his age. Wilfred wrote a reply only two days before his death saying he was safe and happy and if they did, he would only rejoin again or enter the navy as he did not want to be considered a 'slacker.'

