



Tom Widdowson (Q2 1884- 9 Oct 1917)

Tom was the son of Thomas Mann and Charlotte Elizabeth Widdowson (nee Ingle) who married in Grantham, Lincolnshire in May 1870. Both Thomas and his wife Charlotte were born in Lincolnshire. By 1891 the family were living in 2 St John's Road, Isleworth and Thomas was working as a Licensed Victualler.

Thomas and Charlotte had six children. The eldest was George (born 1871), then came Louisa (born 1872), followed by William (born 1874), Gertrude (born 1877), Eliza (born 1881) and finally the youngest, Tom born in 1884. All six children were born in Lincolnshire. When the family moved to London, Tom attended Isleworth County School (now Isleworth & Syon School). In 1911 Tom, aged 27, was living as a boarder in the High Street in Bromley, Kent. He was working as a Draper's Buyer. Meanwhile his parents were running the Railway Inn in St John's Road. Thomas was the Licensee of the Railway Inn (now The Woodlands Tavern) at least from 1890 until 1926.



In August 1913 Tom married Ann Gertrude Ingram in Egham, Surrey. They had two children Mollie Widdowson born on 10 June 1914 and Thomas Ingram Widdowson born on 25 July 1916. The family lived at 3 Babbacombe Road in Bromley and Tom worked as a Furniture Buyer. Tom enlisted as a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the Honorable Artillery Company in February 1917 in Bromley, Kent. In October 1917 Tom's Battalion was part of the 7th Division fighting in Belgium. On the morning of the 9th October his Battalion moved up to

lead an attack by the 7th Division on the town of Reutel. At zero hour, 5.20am, despite atrocious weather and the boggy conditions, the Battalion reached its objective. They established posts in the west and south east corners of Reutel cemetery but reported that they had no officers left alive following their advance. The Battalion continued to meet with considerable resistance from two German pill boxes and stiff fighting ensued. Eventually the pill boxes were captured but only after considerable loss of life. Tom was killed in action on 9 October 1917 at the age of 33. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium and is also remembered on the memorials in St John's Church, Isleworth and in Isleworth & Syon School. He left Ann Gertrude, his widow with Mollie aged 3 and Thomas aged 1. Sadly further tragedy occurred to Ann Gertrude when Mollie died in 1923 at the age of 8.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
WIDDOWSON	H.A.C	Pte	10300
Tom			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	TP/103 P/4	360	
BELGIAN	do	do	
STAR			

British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Card 1914-1920