



George Widginton (Q3 1891- 17 March 1915)

George was born in Isleworth in 1892 and by 1901 lived at 14 Church Street, Isleworth with his father, Robert aged 39, a miller's labourer and his mother Alice (nee King), aged 38. His father had also been born in Isleworth and his mother in Feltham. By 1901 George aged nine was living with his siblings Kate Rose (aka Kitty and Rose) (aged 15), William Charles (aged 12), Frederick Henry (aged 7), Edith Mary (aged three) and Edward Albert (aged eleven months). George attended the Blue School. By 1911 the family were living at 12 Church Street and George, aged 20, was working as a brewer's labourer. His father, aged 49 was employed as a general flour miller, his sister Kate Rose, aged 24, was a shop assistant in a bakery and brother Frederick, aged 17 was working as a coach body maker. The two youngest children Edith, aged 14 and Edward, aged 11 were at school.



5 Byfield Road, Isleworth

George enlisted in the London Regiment when war was declared in the autumn of 1914 and served as a Private in the 1st/13th Kensington Battalion. In March 1915 George's Regiment was in the Artois Region of France and took part in the Battle of Neuve Chappelle from 10-15th of that month. During most of the battle the Regiment were subjected to heavy enemy artillery fire, sometimes for as long as 11 hours continuously. On 12th an advance to try to take the village of Neuve Chapelle failed, due to machine gun fire from an adjacent wood. All communications were lost as wires and telephone instruments were broken by shell fire. There were large numbers of casualties and by 16th there were 100s of dead bodies in trenches which a burying party was called to deal with. By contrast the regimental war diary for 17th March reads "All quiet. One man killed and one wounded".

George was killed in action in France on 17 March 1915 at the age of 25. He is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial in the Pas de Calais region of France and also at All Saints Church in Isleworth.

George's brothers William, Frederick and Albert also enlisted in the army. William joined in September 1914 and served in France as a Private in the 9th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. He was discharged in November 1916 as disabled and no longer fit for war service. Frederick served as a Private in the Middlesex Regiment and then the Machine Gun Corp. Albert served in the Oxford & Bucks Infantry and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. All three brothers survived the war.

By 1916 the family had moved to 5 Byfield Road, Isleworth and George's brother William was still living there with his family in 1939.

Campaign :- <i>B & F 1914</i>				(A) Where decoration was earned.		
				(B) Present situation.		
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Medal Roll (if any)		
(A) <i>WIDGINTON</i>	<i>1/13 Lond R</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>1812</i>	VICTORY	<i>1915/10/15</i>	<i>15</i>
(B) <i>George</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>---</i>	BRITISH	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>
Action taken				STAR	<i>1913</i>	<i>69</i>
				<i>K.M. A. 17.3.15</i>		
<i>Widm. Coate</i>				<i>3.11.14</i>		
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Medal Index Card for George Widginton