

Leslie Seymour Edgley



Leslie Seymour Edgley was born on January 11th 1891 and baptized on February 4th 1891 at St Matthew, Newington. His parents were Robert William (1854-1904) and Leopoldine Matilda Edgley (1855- 1946); Robert was a builder, and they were living at that time at 46, Gurney Street, Newington. They were still there in 1901; Robert was born in Newington and Leopoldine in Westminster and they had married in Newington on 5th February 1879. Leslie had four surviving brothers: Ernest William (1880-1966); Cecil Herbert, born in 1883; Harold Edgar (1888-1965) and Percy Evenden (1897-1971). His sisters were: Daisy Ethel (1881-1950); Annie Gertrude (1885-1987) and Elsie Violet (1893-1984). By 1911, Leslie was a warehouseman boarding at 113 Forest Road, Dalston, a boarding house; all of the 11 other males were also listed as warehousemen in drapers, bar one, who was a clerk.

We know from Leslie's army records that he had been an apprentice until 1908 at Rotherham and Co, 86 Shoreditch. Jeremiah Rotherham & Co. Ltd. was a retail and wholesale draper in Shoreditch, London. He enlisted at the start of the war at Regent's Park on 7th September 1914, with the Household Cavalry, Royal Horse Guards giving his trade as a warehouseman and his address as 8 Arnold Road, Tooting.

He was 5'11 1/4 ", and had a fair complexion, grey eyes, dark brown hair and a scar on the right side of his mouth. He served 'at home' until early April 1915, and was hospitalised on 19th October 1914 for 5 days with a mild sore throat. After an anti typhoid injection on 5th January and a second one 10 days later. He embarked at Southampton for France, on 7th April and, had been promoted to Lance Corporal on 22/1/15. He reverted to Trooper at Ypres on 14/4/15, became wounded and went missing in the field on 13/05/15. He was reported as missing, presumed dead on 23/05/17. Leslie bequeathed his effects of £136 to his mother, Leopoldine Mathilde Edgley,

He is commemorated on the Menin gate at Ypres, and also at All Saints Church in Isleworth, where his uncle, Henry, the younger brother of Robert William, and previously an ecclesiastical artist, then an artist in stained glass, was a churchwarden for 19 years from 1913. Perhaps Henry played a part in the planning of the Memorial Chapel at All Saints Church (see below), which was sadly destroyed by fire in 1943.

By 1939, Leopoldine was living with her daughter, Daisy Eva, an Inspector of Nurses, at the Crossways, Park Estate, Cheltenham, and died on 22 May 1946. Probate was granted to her son, Ernest William Edgley, a Civil Servant and the effects of £1985.0.5d.

Daisy had worked in 1911 as a nurse (sick) in Cowley. By 1917 Daisy had been promoted to a Sister at the 4th Southern General Hospital, Plymouth and was decorated with the Red Cross, awarded by the King at Buckingham Palace in July 1917. The London Gazette dated her first award as February 23rd 1917.



War Memorial Chapel, Isleworth

Cecil Herbert and Harold Edgar emigrated to Canada and New Zealand respectively. Elsie Violet became a teacher and in 1956 and 59, sailed to New Zealand to visit her brother Harold. Annie Gertrude moved to the Hastings area. Percy Evenden became a bank inspector and in 1939 was still living in the Mitcham area.