

## Edwin Harold



Edwin was born in Stuston, Suffolk in Sept 1883. In the 1891 census, Edwin is six years old, living with his family at 139 Chapel Street, Diss, Norfolk. His father, Henry Harold aged 39, was an agricultural labourer from Scole in Norfolk; his mother Ann Maria (nee Root) was from Occold, Suffolk and his five sisters: Gertrude aged 14, a stay-maker; Ada aged 10; Ellen aged 9; Evelina aged 5 and Ethel M aged 2. By 1901 the family had moved to 11 Beehive Yard in Diss and Edwin, now 17, was working as a stable lad. His sister Ellen was a domestic servant; (Ethel) Minnie was 12 and Edwin had three more sisters: Miriam aged 10; Daisy aged 6 and Grace, aged 3. His older sister Gertrude was working in a family home in Willesden as a domestic servant and Ada was working as a domestic servant to a clergyman and his Austrian wife in Diss.

Edwin married Beatrice Lilian Osborne in Malling, Kent on 13th December, 1908 and by 1911 was living at 7 West Street, Wrotham, Kent with Beatrice and their two daughters Avis Clara aged 18 months and Gladys Beatrice aged 3 months. Edwin, aged 27, was working as a waiter in a hotel. His sister Daisy was living at 21 Byfield Gardens, Barnes as a servant in

1911. Edwin and Beatrice had two sons: Herbert George Edwin born 1912 and Reginald John born 1915.

Edwin enlisted in Norwich into the Royal Fusiliers as Private 25767. He later joined the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, 11th Battalion as Lance Corporal G/24209. He left Aldershot on 3rd May, 1916 and sailed from Southampton to Le Havre on 5th May. He saw active service in France and Flanders and was killed at Hollebeke on 1st August, 1917 - one of 200 killed that day, probably from machine gun fire. He was awarded the Victory and British medals. He is commemorated in Ypres on the Menin Gate, panel 11-13 and 14. He is also commemorated on the Diss memorial (see left) which sits at the base of the church wall, beneath the clock tower. It reads: "To the Glory of God and as a tribute of honour to the men of Diss who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918 this memorial is affectionately dedicated by the inhabitants of Diss AD 1921."



Beatrice eventually married William Crosbie in Hammersmith in December 1938 and is listed in 1939 as living at 22 Bryony Road with William, his daughter Joan aged 14 and her son Reginald now 24. Her other son, Herbert, is living in Hiley Road, Willesden with his wife Edith. Her two daughters have married: Avis to Arthur Manley in September 1935 and living at 4 Elthorne Park Road, Ealing and Gladys to Charles Fisher in March 1938 in Hammersmith and living at 134 Trafalgar Street, Gillingham, Kent. There is an Edwin Harold, listed on the All Souls monument in Northcote Road, St Margarets, then in Isleworth. The September 1917 All Souls Parish Magazine also refers to an Edwin Harold of 22 Northcote Road being killed in action. There are no other servicemen who died in 1917, and with the name of E Harold on the CWGC site, so we are assuming that this is indeed the correct person. He did have connections in this area: both of his sisters were working in West London as servants before the War started, and later his wife, and some of her children, settled in the Hammersmith area.