



Edward Arthur Lawrence (8273) was born in Wandsworth in 1885. On 23rd June 1904 he enlisted at Kingston Upon Thames into 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment based at Aldershot. He was just over 18 years old. His records indicate that he was a 'carman' (driver of a horse drawn vehicle) before signing up.

Edward was clearly 'a bit of a lad'. His first recorded misdemeanour was overstaying his pass from 12 midnight on the 17.7.04 until 10pm on the 18th. He was also in possession of a 'greatcoat the property of Private Slatford'! His punishment was 4 days confined to barracks and a forfeit of 1 day's pay. On 17th November '04 he was "gambling in the barracks" and a few days later Edward was "absent from the tattoo". Edward continued his misdemeanours – using inappropriate language to a NCO, absent from Church Parade, untidy kit, absent without leave, reporting sick without a cause and inappropriately dressed – all of which were recorded in the Defaulter's Book throughout 1905 (and into 1906). In 1905 Edward's Battalion arrived for a three year stay at Fort Regent in Jersey. Perhaps Edward was not born to be a soldier as it appears that he transferred to the Army Reserves in 1906.

In 1907, a year later, Edward marries Sarah Jane Cook in Wandsworth and they moved to Nuneaton in Warwickshire where Edward became a 'banksman' (crane operator) possibly at a coal mine. Two children were born, Edward Thomas (1907) and Elizabeth May (1910). The family can be found on the 1911 Census living with an Uncle and Aunt Ede and living at 5 Little Duke Street Nuneaton. The baptism records of both children record that Edward is now a miner. Edward's younger brother George (7) is also living in this household.

In the Spring of 1914 the family can be found living at 66 Clifton Road Nuneaton. William Alfred, was born in May and baptised at the local church of St Mary's. **This event would probably be the last time that Sarah would remember family happiness.** Edward was recalled to fight for his country and was mobilised on 5th August. Ten days later he landed at Havre in France and on the 23rd September, just over five weeks later, Edward, this colourful character, was dead. He died from "enteric fever" probably typhoid. Three months later, Sarah's seven year old son Edward Thomas died of 'tubercular disease of the hip'. In 1916, Sarah married George Fuller and can be found living at Garrett Lane Wandsworth.

Edward is buried at Juvisy-Sur-Orge Communal Cemetery in France. Edward's only connection to Isleworth appears to be the address "2 Heron Road Richmond" where his mother, also named Sarah, was living with Edward's brothers (Richard, Thomas and George) and married sister Elizabeth Wopshot in 1920. Edward is also remembered on the All Souls Memorial, Northcote Road, St Margarets.

