

Edward John GREENAWAY



Born: 1897, Padstow, Cornwall
Occupation: Carpenter
Enlisted: Newquay: 20th January 1916 (Conscripted)
Unit: 7th Duke of Cornwall's LI
Rank/number: Lance Corporal: No.24332
Death: Killed in action, 16th August 1917
Detail: Edward died during the Battle of Langemarck at the Third Battle of Ypres. Fought in heavy rain that turned low-lying Flanders into a vast quagmire, the 7th DCL nevertheless managed to achieve its objectives, but at the cost of 179 dead and wounded. Edward was one of 15,000 British casualties. His body, though buried, was never subsequently located.

Age at death: 21

Military info: Edward was called up the month conscription was introduced and was posted to the DCLI. After training he was sent to France, initially to the 1st DCLI and later in the summer of 1916 to 7th DCLI, which was part of 61st Brigade, 20th (Light) Division. The 7th Battalion were serving in the Ypres Salient, so it was a true baptism of fire for Edward. The battalion arrived on the Somme on 25th July, and on 22nd August they repulsed an attack at Guillemont. On the 29th they took over waterlogged trenches near Trones Wood, where they were surrounded by bodies and the un-tended wounded. During a night attack on Lesboeuf on 16th September the battalion suffered appalling casualties and Edward sustained serious head injuries. He was invalided home where he spent weeks at the London General Hospital. By the time he rejoined his unit they were preparing for the Third Battle of Ypres. The 7th DCLI fought at Langemarck in August 1917 where Edward was one of 15,000 British casualties.

Grave/memorial: Edward's body was never found, despite assurances that the site of his burial was known. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing at Ypres, and at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and on the Padstow War Memorial.

Family info: Father: Edward Greenaway, born in West Hendred, Berkshire in 1862. He was head gardener at Prideaux Place, family seat of the Prideaux-Brunes. He also ran a grocer's shop in the town. Mother: Damaris Ellen Stone, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1866. She was the daughter of a Trinity Pilot and lived with her family at Hawker's Cove, Padstow. The couple had two sons.

Additional info: Edward's parents suffered agonies over their son's fate. A pal in the 7th DCLI visited them in Padstow to break the news that their boy was dead, but they were official assured that he was wounded. They clung to this glimmer of hope for more than a month. Then they learned the heart-breaking truth.



This information was researched by Peter Smith, who is currently writing a book about Padstow's part in the Great War. Anyone wishing to correct errors or supply additional information can write to him at 24 Mallard Drive, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5PW. Also phone 01825 762226 or email smithpeter24@gmail.com

+Lest we forget+