

Edward DOBLE

Born: Q2 1888, Withycombe Raleigh Died 10th July 1916, Mesopotamia, aged 28
Gunner 57979 Royal Field Artillery

Edward Doble was from a family long established in Withycombe Raleigh, next to Exmouth and within the registration district of St Thomas. It was his marriage which brought him across the Exe to Dawlish.

His grandfather was Robert Doble, (1815- Q2,1857) a brickmaker, living in Withycombe with his wife, Agnes nee Burgoin, (1815-Q4, 1882) and seven children in 1851. They were William (1833-1908) a sailor, Robert (1837-1912), Henry (1840-), Elizabeth (1843-1916),

James Thomas Burgoyne Doble (1844-)(incorrectly transcribed by Ancestry as Jennie), Frederick Charles (1847-1927) and Edward Richard Burgoyne Doble (1849-).

- Frederick Charles Doble was born in St Thomas district in Q1,1847 and married Selina Alice Carter of Dawlish in Q2,1868. In 1871 he was a brick and tile maker and living at Lypstone with his wife and one child, Frederick (1870-) and his brother Alfred. F C Doble died in Sherborne district in March 1927.

- Edward Richard Burgoyne Doble was born in Q2, 1849 and married Charity Summers on 13 July 1873 in Gateshead, Durham. He was listed as a confectioner at 25 Radnor Street, Manchester in the 1901 census.

When Robert Doble died in 1857, Agnes was a widow.

By 1861 the older sons had moved away and there were two more children at home, Jessie (1854-1937) and Alfred (1857-1947). Agnes was listed as a lacemaker and **James T B Doble** as a brickmaker's assistant, a trade which spread through the family.

- Alfred Doble (1857-1947) married Emma Gibbings in St Thomas district in 1902. He was shown as a boarding-house keeper in 1911 and the Probate record shows that he died on 18 March 1947 while living at Bella Vista, 3 Stoke Villas, Withycombe Raleigh. They had a son, Ernest Alfred Doble who married Mary Susan Gibbings in 1905 and was a hairdresser in Torquay. A E Doble died on 16 August 1909 and his widow was living with Alfred and Emma in 1911 with her daughter Phyllis Marjorie Doble (1906-), born in Torquay.

James T B Doble was born in St Thomas Q4, 1844 and married Rebecca Cox (1840-1879) of Wool, Dorset, in St Thomas registration district in Q4 1864.

By 1871 they had three children, Stephen Robert James Cox Doble (1863-), Agnes Charlotte (1867-), and William (1870-) and were living at 6 Perriman Row, Withycombe. James is shown as a Brick Moulder.

- Agnes Charlotte Doble was born in St Thomas district in Q4 1867 and became a domestic servant in the Lockyer household at Ingleside, Withycombe Raleigh at the 1901 census. In 1911 she was unmarried and living with her widower father, James.

- William Doble (1870-) became a Coastguard and in 1901, aged 29, he was at Challaboro' Coastguard Station with Agnes, 23. It is probable that she was Agnes Mary Rice (1877-1924) and born in Wrafton, Barnstaple. In 1911 he had been promoted to

Petty Officer in the Coastguard Service and he and Agnes were at 5 Coastguard Station, Cob Road, Lyme Regis.

Later in the decade James and Rebecca Doble had Jessie B (1875-) and Henry Burgoyne** (1874-).

A connection with Bristol may explain the appearance of Henry Burgoyne Doble, Jessie Doble and William Doble in the Baptism register at St Marks, Easton, Glos on the same date, 1st November 1875.

*- **Private Henry Burgoyne/Burgoin Doble had been a groom when he enlisted with the Devon Regiment and then served in India, Malta and South Africa. He was awarded the Indian Medal 1895 with clasp, Punjab 1894-89, Queen's South African medal with clasp "Defence of Ladysmith", and King's South African medal with two clasps. He was discharged at Malta in March 1911 and re-enlisted on the 10th July 1915 from 15 Dacre Road, Eastbourne, where he lived with his wife Mary Eliza Doble (Married 15/5/15), and served in the 1st Garrison Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment.*

There is a death of Rebecca Doble registered in Loughborough, Leics, in Q2,1879.

The census of 1881 does not easily reveal **James'** family, but there is a record of James Doble, 35, born in Exmouth, working as a general labourer on the railroad and lodging at the Market House Inn, Taunton. The census also shows Charlotte, 13, William, Henry and Jessie forming a household in Parkers Lane, Withycombe Raleigh.

By 1891 **James T B Doble** is once again a brickmaker with a new wife, Elizabeth, 34, living at 6 Jubilee Cottages, Withycombe where James was to stay for the next twenty years.

There were two children from his first marriage and two new children and three step-children, The children were Charlotte (1871-), Henry (1874-), from his first wife, and **Edward** 3 (1888-1916), and Walter 1 (1890-).

The step-children were Henry Perryman 16 (1875-), Thomas Perryman 15 (1876-) and Ellen Perryman 12 (1879-). Henry Perryman may be the birth registration of George Henry Perryman, born in Bristol, Glos, in Q4, 1875. It has been assumed that Elizabeth Perryman was James' new wife.

James and Elizabeth had four children, **Edward** (1888-1916), Walter (1890-), Sidney (1893-) and Wallace (1894-1918).

Elizabeth Doble died in 1906. The 1911 census shows James, 65, a widower and a domestic gardener, and that he had eight children, all being alive at that date. Living with him were Charlotte, 40, unmarried, Henry, 36, an army pensioner, Walter, 21, a domestic chauffeur, and Wallace***, 17, a domestic gardener.

****" 44949 Private Wallace Doble of the 9th Battalion, the Northumberland Fusiliers; formerly 15064 of the Army Cyclist Corps. Son of James and Charlotte Doble. Born in Withycombe in 1894. Died 9 April 1918 aged 24." (record in Devon Heritage referring to the Exmouth War Memorial inscription)(the reference to mother, Charlotte, is believed to be an assumption based on the 1911 census entry – ed).*

Wallace enlisted at Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (UK Soldiers died in the Great War 1914-1919) and was the husband of Lena Doble (Plant) of 10 Greenswood Avenue, Mile End, Stockport. [A great grand-daughter lives in Australia]

- Sidney (1893-) was Mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette of 1st January 1917 "in recognition of distinguished services during the War" when he was an Acting Leading Stoker, Royal Navy, K 3948. (family record)

Edward became a road contractor's labourer and after his mother's death in 1906 he married Alice Maud Way (1883-) in Q3, 1907. She had been born in Cockermouth, Cumberland. She is recorded in the 1891 census, living with her aunt Bessie Way, and in 1901 as a servant to Mark Cornelius' household at Marine Parade, Dawlish.

- Alice Maud Mary Way was a grand-daughter of Francis and Grace Way who had nine children.

A son, Francis/Frank Way married Sarah Jane Tucker of Dawlish in Q1,1880. They had two children, Alice Maud Mary, born in Cockermouth district, 1883, and Albert Henry George Way, born in Dawlish in 1884.

- Albert Henry George Way was born on 26 July 1884 and at some point went to Canada from where he joined the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force on 27 January 1916. His Attestation Paper shows his next of kin as Maud, his sister.

- Bessey/Bessie Way was born in Bow in 1861 and married George Shelston in Q4,1882 (N.A.district). They were shown at 55 Monument Street, Devonport in the 1891 census as Bessie Shelston,(incorrectly transcribed as Brickwood) 30, married, Ellen, her daughter,1, and Alice Way, 8, born in Maryport, Cumberland, a niece of Bessie.
(See appendix to Frank Morrish history pages)

The Way family were settled in Dawlish and it is no surprise that **Edward** and Alice Maud moved there.

There were two children by 1911 when they were living at 2 Alma Cottages, Manor Hill, Dawlish. (They had four children but two had died by the 1911 census.)

They were Francis Edward James Doble *(1908- 1940) and George Doble (1910 -). A further child, Albert Frederick W Doble (1912- 1983) was born after the census. All were born in Dawlish.

*(Francis Edward James Doble married Clare M Sewell (1907-1964) in Q3 1931 in Worcester district and they had a son Anthony Vine Doble (1934-2012). [Plant Family Tree/Ancestry] A further son, Francis Edward John Doble was born in 1940, shortly after the death of his father.

George Doble served in WW2 in Burma, and later ran a shop in Honiton. [A grandson lives in South Africa]

There are descendants living in South Africa, Australia and the UK.

It is recorded that **Edward Doble** enlisted at Newton Abbot, but there are no indications as to the date. There were a number of Divisions engaged in Mesopotamia and there will have been Royal Field Artillery detachments with them. Following the withdrawal from Gallipoli in January 1916 there was further bad news with the siege of Kut, which had become a major concern for the armies fighting the Ottoman army. They had been advancing up from Basra to protect the oil fields and met Turkish forces acting with German advisers.

The British garrison at Kut were encircled and in a state of siege for five months before starvation forced their surrender. After five rescue attempts in which relief forces lost 20,000 men the British garrison surrendered and 13,000 men marched out of Kut to imprisonment. Two thirds of the soldiers died on the march to Baghdad.

Basra was an important logistical base at which ships unloaded supplies to be sent north on shallow draught vessels. Here a Royal Field Artillery contingent is being transferred to barges at Basra, ca 1915. (National Army Museum)



New hospitals were also set up to better care for the sick and wounded. Gunner Edward Doble died at the 33rd British General Hospital of heatstroke.



Edward Doble is recorded on the Devon Roll of Honour

Dawlish War memorial inscription: DOBLE E. BOMB^R R.F.A.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: DOBLE, E Gunner 57979, 10/07/1916

Royal Field Artillery Grave Ref: VI. P. 9. [Basra War Cemetery](#) During the First World War, Basra was occupied by the 6th (Poona) Division in November 1914, from which date the town became the base of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. A number of cemeteries were used by the MEF in and around Basra.

Devon Heritage site info: 57979 Gunner Edward Doble of the Royal Field Artillery. Husband of Maud Doble of 2 Alma Cottages, Dawlish. Born in Withycombe in the June Quarter of 1888. Died 10 July 1916 aged 28.

Dawlish World War One Project

Next of kin: Alice Maud Doble (nee Way) (1884-) widow. The Death grant and War Gratuity were paid to her.

References: CWGC and Forces War Records BMD "Plant" family tree (ancestry) "NEW" family tree census records. UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects (21 entries) Mons, Anzac and Kut by Aubrey

From Exmouth War Memorial

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