

Edward MUDGE

Born Dawlish, 22 August, 1896
Gunner 1762

Died Dawlish, 28th April 1915, aged 18
4th Wessex Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Edward Mudge was the youngest child of Charles Mudge (1861-1896), a general labourer, and Ellen Blackmore (1866-) who were married in Exeter in Q1 1888. (N.A. Q1, 1888, vol 5b, p174) Charles was born in Exeter and Ellen was the daughter of John and Emma Blackmore of Dawlish.

In 1891 they were living at 4 Park Row, Dawlish with their second son Walter John (1889-) and Ellen's occupation was shown as laundress. They had further children, Charles (1888-) and Emma Ellen (1890-), both born in Dawlish.

Edward was born in 2 Queen Lane, on 22 August 1896 and registered by his mother with the single name, Edward.

There is a death registered of Charles Mudge in Q1, 1896 (N.A. Vol 5b, p84)

After the father's death, the family moved to 1 Queen's Lane, Old Town Street, and in 1901 Ellen was a widow and charwoman on Parish Relief with four children, Charles, Walter, Emma and **Edward**. All had been born in Dawlish except Walter who was born in Exeter.

Ellen Mudge married again in Q3, 1910 to Thomas E Williams (1846-1915), a bootmaker who was a widower after his first wife, Jane, (1846-1895) had died. (N.A. Vol 5b, p62, Q3, 1895).

In 1911, Thomas and Ellen Williams were living at 37 Manor Row, Dawlish with **Edwin Mudge**, 14, an errand boy to a fishmonger. They had been married one year and there were five men shown as boarders, including **Edwin (Edward) Mudge**. Ellen's other children are not shown at this address, and Walter appears to be living in Exeter and apprenticed to a master baker.

Thomas Williams died in October 1915, aged 69, and so Ellen lost a second husband and a son within the space of half a year. Ellen married for a third time to James Carter in June 1917 (GRO ref Newton Abbot district vol 5b, p276). The Death Grant for Edward of £2-7s-6d was paid to his mother Ellen Williams in 1916 and the War Gratuity of £3-0s-0d to his mother Ellen Carter in 1920.

EDWARD'S MILITARY SERVICE

In time, **Edward** joined the 4th Wessex Brigade, Ammunition Column of the Royal Field Artillery, and was a gunner with service number 1762. If he had given his true age when enlisting, that would have been no earlier than Q3, 1914.

The UK Register of Soldiers' Effects shows cause of death to have been Brights disease, a chronic inflammation of blood vessels in the kidneys.

The following report appeared in the Western Times on Monday 3 May, 1915:

"The internment took place on Saturday afternoon in Dawlish Cemetery, of Edward Mudge, of the 4th Wessex, R.F.A., who died at Dawlish Red Cross Hospital on the previous Thursday.

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Deceased was a native of Dawlish and was accorded full military honours. Rev.D.Williams(curate) officiated in the Parish Church and at the graveside. The coffin bore the following inscription: "Edward Mudge. Died 29th April, 1915, aged 20 years." A bearer party, consisting of eleven men and a trumpeter attended from Crediton, where he had been previously stationed, who were under the command of Sergt. Powlesland..

There were a large number of beautiful wreaths sent from the deceased's family and others, and an everlasting wreath from the officers and non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment to which the deceased belonged, and a beautiful wreath from the Quartermaster (Mrs Hildyard), and Assistant-Quartermaster (Miss Hildyard), of the Dawlish Red Cross Hospital, as well as one from the staff of the hospital.

Deceased had been home on sick leave for some weeks. He was taken worse a few days ago, and was removed to the hospital, where he succumbed despite unremitting attention. The immediate cause of death was haemorrhage of the lungs."

He is recorded in the Devon Roll of Honour, but without date or place of death.

The Dawlish War memorial inscription reads MUDGE. E GNR. R.F.A.

(The Devon Heritage website for the War Memorial entry is incorrect, for it says "E.Mudge. 179832 Gunner, Edwin James Mudge of the Royal Field Artillery. Born in Dawlish in 1897. Died 16 November 1917 aged 20. This takes the information for Edward James G Mudge, born in Exeter, 1895, and who did indeed die on 16/11/17, but who had no clear connection with Dawlish.)

He is included in the list of names on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

The Commonwealth War Graves register of burials in Dawlish Cemetery shows the information given here to be correct for E.Mudge, died 28 April, 1915. The headstone also carries this date, but it does not accord with the newspaper report and inscription on the coffin of 29th April.



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References:

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Birth Certificate

CWGC Cemetery Records

refs via subscription sites:

Census records

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

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