

John CUTCLIFFE

Born, Dawlish 1887

Died 26 August 1918, aged 31

Lieutenant East Yorkshire Regt, 2nd Battalion, attached to Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regt, 9th Battalion

John Cutcliffe was the youngest among eight children born to George John Cutcliffe (1844-1906) and Eliza Caroline Atkins (1844-1920). George had been born in Moretonhampstead to John and Susanna Cutcliffe and served an apprenticeship as a pharmacist in Plymouth (1861 census).

George and Eliza were married in the second quarter of 1867 in Dartmouth, Eliza's birthplace and the first two children were born there, before moving to Dawlish ca 1872. In 1881 they occupied No 7, Strand where George was in business as a pharmacist and dental surgeon.

The children were:

Ada (1868-1942),	born	Dartmouth
George (1870-),		"
Charles (1872-1932),		Dawlish
Edith (1876-),		"
Digby (1877-1939),		"
Mary (1880-),		"
Ethel (1883-),		"

John (1887-1918)(GRO ref 1887 Apr-June, N.A. Vol 5b, p111).

In 1901 Charles is shown as a Pharmaceutical assistant, Ada is a 'stationer-employer' and Ethel is also a stationer, aged 18. Early photographs show the business of stationer.

Charles was shown as a pharmaceutical student, aged 18, in the 1891 census, and in 1911 he was working as a pharmacist in Ventnor, Isle of Wight at the age of 37.

George Cutcliffe died on 14 December 1906, aged 62, and was succeeded in the business by Charles and he returned to run it in due course.

Charles' grave in Dawlish Cemetery shows that he married Ethel Selina Cutcliffe (1884-1966) and the grave also marks the death of their son John Frampton Cutcliffe (1918-1940).

George's widow, Eliza Caroline, moved to Live in Hammersmith, London and died on 9 October 1920 and Probate was granted to Digby Cutcliffe, school master.

The eldest brother, George, married Amy Rose Brooke, of Batley Carr, Yorkshire on 2nd August 1910 when he was a Clerk in Holy Orders living at Batley Carr vicarage. **John** is also recorded on the 1914-1918 memorial in Holy Trinity, Batley Carr.

There was another Cutcliffe in Dawlish in the medical professions at this time, but they do not appear to be directly related. Dr Montagu Cutcliffe (1869-1942) was born in the St James' district, London, and worked as a surgeon in North Tawton before moving to Dawlish ca 1905. He returned his census form in 1911 describing himself as a Physician and Surgeon, and was living at Hill House, Dawlish with a cook and parlourmaid. He is shown as married but there is no entry for his wife. It is thought that he was the physician who examined Alfred Mould (q.v.) on 17 October 1914 when he fell from a train en route to or from Liverpool.

It is not clear where **John Cutcliffe** was for the 1911 census and he may have joined the Army and been serving abroad.

2nd Battalion, East Yorks Regiment 1914-15

August 1914 : in Kamptee. Returned to England and landed in December 1914. Moved to Hursley Park near Winchester.

December 1914 : attached to 83rd Brigade, 28th Division.

16 January 1915 : landed at Le Havre.

26 October 1915 : sailed from Marseilles to Egypt and on to Salonika.

There is a record at the National Archives, Kew, which contains copies of telegrams, as follow:

18-9-16 to Mrs Cutcliffe, 16 Camden Gardens, Uxbridge - "Beg to inform you that 2nd Lieut J Cutcliffe, 2nd East Yorks, admitted 42 General Hospital, Salonica August 31, sick, any further news will be sent."

10-10-16 to Mrs E Cutcliffe, 82 Holland Park Avenue [London W] "Beg to inform you that 2nd Lieut J Cutcliffe, 2nd East Yorks discharged from 42 General Hospital, Salonica Sept 25 after treatment for malaria."

Rush of Malaria Cases from Salonica, commencing July 1916

The medical authorities, however, in Malta were aware that cases of malaria were becoming frequent amongst our troops in the fever stricken valleys in which they were operating. The rush which began in July was therefore not unexpected; the weekly arrivals from Salonica quickly rose from 718 in the first week of July to 1,982, 2,605 and 2,587 in the three succeeding weeks. As it was anticipated that the need for accommodation might be greater than ever, arrangements were at once made for the expansion of the existing hospitals. The available beds were raised from 12,000 to 15,486 in July, on the 3rd of August 13,000 of these being occupied. The requirements of the Salonica army increased by leaps and bounds, but the authorities in Malta were able as in 1915 to rise to the occasion, until eventually 25,570 beds had been equipped in hospitals, convalescent camp hospitals and the awaiting passage depot, a number exceeding the highest limit reached during the previous year by 5,500 beds. During the busiest period a moderate margin of safety between beds ready and beds required was always maintained; had it been necessary a scheme was in readiness whereby further accommodation up to 27,000 beds could have been provided. (<http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/190.html>)

16-12-16 to Mrs E Cutcliffe, 82 Holland Park Avenue [London W] "Beg to inform you that 2nd Lieut J Cutcliffe, 2nd East Yorks transferred to Imtarfa Military Hospital Malta November thirtieth for treatment for dysentery following malaria."

12-1-17 to Mrs E Cutcliffe, 2 Batoun Gardens, West Kensington " Beg to inform you that 2nd Lieut J Cutcliffe, 2nd East Yorks left Malta for England Jan seventh."

31-8-18 to Mrs E Cutcliffe, 2 Batoun Gardens, "Deeply regret Lt J Cutcliffe, East Yorks attached 9th West Ridings killed in action August 26th. Army Council expresses sympathy."

He was a Lieutenant with the 2nd Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment, but attached to the 9th Battalion of the West Riding Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) at the time of his death. The 9th Battalion was one of the New Armies and had arrived in France in 1915, was engaged for the next three years there in various battles until the Armistice. It may be assumed that Lieutenant Cutcliffe recovered in England and was then posted to the most needed battle area with the West Riding Regiment.

The town of Albert was captured on 22 August 1918. The continuing attacks on the Somme were widened on the south, by the French Tenth Army starting the Second Battle of Noyon on 17 August, capturing the town of Noyon on 29 August. On 26 August, to the north of the initial

attack, the First Army widened the attack by another 7 miles with the Second Battle of Arras of 1918. Bapaume fell on 29 August. (ex- Wikipedia)

John Cutcliffe does not appear on the Devon Roll of Honour for Dawlish, nor on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll, most probably because he was given private education.

Dawlish War memorial inscription, West face (supplementary to the main panel):
CUTCLIFFE J. LT EAST YORKS REGT

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

Rank: Lieutenant Date of Death: 26/08/1918
Age: 31
Regiment/Service: East Yorkshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. attd. 9th Bn. Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)
Cemetery: WARLENCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY, Grave Reference: VIII. L. 12.
Additional Information: Son of George John and Eliza Caroline Cutcliffe, of Dawlish, Devon

The headstone on his grave in the Warlencourt Cemetery is inscribed "He Fought the Good Fight" and was supplied by Mr Digby Cutcliffe, The Old House, 101 Brook Green, London W 6. (His older brother). Digby had moved to London by 1901 when he was in lodgings and working as an assistant master at a private school in Hammersmith. After the death of his father in 1906 it appears that his mother moved to live with him. In 1916 he married Isabel Le Cren and they remained in West London until at least 1929 (phone book entry) but he died in Gravesend, Kent in 1939.

Last known address: 2 Batoum Gardens, West Kensington Park, London

Next of kin: Mrs E Cutcliffe, mother who received £429 – 18s – 6d from his Will. Letters of Administration were granted on 7th November 1918 to his mother "only next of kin, claiming to be residuary legatee" of 101 Brook Green, Hammersmith, London W 6.

References:

Officer records, National Archive, Kew

CWGC references

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Information supplied by memorial project, Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Yorkshire

Malta Military Hospital 1915-1917 (<http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/190.html>)

Refs by Subscription services (Ancestry):

Census data 1861 to 1911

Norris/Powell family tree

Probate records