

Edgar FULLER



Born: 1891, Padstow, Cornwall
Occupation: Mariner
Enlisted: Bodmin: 10th Sept 1914 (Volunteer)
Unit: 7th Duke of Cornwall's LI (C Company)
Rank/number: Lance Corporal: No.15592
Death: Killed in action, 31st August 1916
Detail: Edgar died during the Somme offensive. The 7th DCLI were holding waterlogged trenches halfway between Trones Wood, which had been seized from the enemy on 15th July, and Guillemont, a fortified village still in German hands. The area was body-strewn and shelled constantly and on the 31st August Edgar was one of 9 killed in the battalion.

Age at death: 25

Military info: Edgar was one of the first to enlist. He was 5ft 5ins tall, two years married and 23 years old. The 7th DCLI, part of 61st Brigade, 20th (Light) Division, landed at Bolougne on 25th July 1915. The 7th DCLI played a minor part in the Battle of Loos on 25th September 1915, and spent the winter of 1915/16 in the area of Armentières and the Ypres Salient, where on 15th July he was slightly wounded. 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 newly-dug trenches near Trones Wood. Conditions were appalling. "All around lay dead bodies awaiting the mercy of internment," the war diary recorded. "Occasionally a cry from some poor chap lying out in no man's land..." Shells rained down constantly, but there was only one dugout for the entire battalion. Late on 31st August, the war diary noted: "Very wet night. Men very tired. Many of the men developing a form of trench foot. Incessant bombardment in support and reserve trenches. Many tear or lachrymatory shells used by the Hun in this area. Bombardment so heavy and general that attack expected but did not materialize." Surviving in such horrific conditions was a lottery and Edgar's luck ran out during the course of the day.

Grave/memorial: Edgar's body was not found. He is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Somme, at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and on Padstow War Memorial.

Family info: Father: Joseph Enos Fuller, born Farmingham, Kent in 1859. He worked as a fisherman, Coastguard, and dock labourer. Mother: Selina Brenton, born Padstow, Cornwall in 1860. The couple wed in 1882 and had 11 children.

Additional info: On 2nd October 1912 Edgar married Lilian May Thomas, born Crugmeer, Padstow in 1892. She worked as a domestic servant for the Trevone family of Bright Millar, who also died in the war. The couple had a daughter, Lilian.



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