

Edwin GRUBB



- Born:** 25th September 1893, Cove, Padstow, Cornwall
- Occupation:** Slaughterman for butcher
- Enlisted:** Bodmin: 10th Sept 1914 (Volunteer)
- Unit:** 7th Duke of Cornwall's LI
- Rank/number:** Sergeant: No.15588
- Death:** Killed in action, 16th September 1916
- Detail:** Edwin died during a joint attack by his battalion on Lesboeuvs village on the Somme. His brigade was taking part in an operation with the Guards Division when he was hit. His family were told by pals in the battalion that Edwin was wounded and put on a stretcher, but as he waited to be taken out of the frontline he was shot in the heart by a German sniper and died instantly.
- Age at death:** 23
- Military info:** Edwin had been in France since 23rd July 1915 and one year on he was a seasoned soldier and a sergeant. The 7th DCLI, part of 61st Brigade, 20th (Light) Division, was holding the line at Ypres when the Somme Offensive began on 1st July 1916. Men listened to the rumble of the guns to the south and knew their turn would come. Word arrived that month and by 25th July they were on the battlefield. But it was not until 22nd August that they saw action, when they repulsed an attack at Guillemont. On the 29th they took over trenches near Trones Wood. The position was knee-deep in water and surrounded by decaying bodies. Plaintive cries for help came from wounded men in no man's land. The battalion fought at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette and at 5.30am on the first day, the 15th September, they arrived at Waterlot Farm near Ginchy and dug in. At 1.30am on the 16th they were told to join an attack on Lesboeuvs village with the Guards Division later that morning. Owing to the late order the Cornwalls were still arriving at their assembly point at dawn and were fired on, causing many losses. The enemy was shelled and the DCLI charged in, taking the first line. Edwin was first wounded, then killed by a sniper.
- Grave/memorial:** Edwin is buried at the Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeuvs and is commemorated at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and on the Padstow War Memorial
- Family info:** Father: David Grubb, born Scotland in 1851. Pilot, fisherman and coxwain of Padstow lifeboat. Mother: Mary Brenton, born Padstow in 1848. Of their 17 children 7 died. Wife: May Martyn. The couple married in 1911 and had two sons. Leonard was born 6th February 1912, and Edwin arrived 3rd February 1916, just before Somme battle in which his father died. His middle name was Kitchener.
- Additional info:** On 11th April 1900 Edwin's father David and brother James died attempting to rescue a ship's crew in a gale. Eight lifeboatmen and three fishermen perished.



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