

Edwin Gostwyck SARGENT



Born: 1894, Blackwood, Monmouthshire
Occupation: Trainee doctor
Enlisted: 1916
Unit: HMS Topaze
Rank/number: Surgeon RN
Death: Died, 25th June 1918
Detail: Edwin was stricken with sunstroke whilst serving on *Topaze* in the Persian Gulf. He was landed at Aden in the Yemen and was being invalided home via Bombay in India when his condition worsened and he died in the city's Manarajan Gaexwad Officers's Hospital at Malabar Hill. He was buried at Service Cemetery 5 miles outside Bombay.

Age at death: 25

Military info: On the outbreak of war Edwin was a 21-year-old student at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London where he was studying to be a doctor, like his father and grandfather before him. Edwin had been education at Priory School, Malvern and Malvern College. Edwin did not enlist immediately, deciding to continue his medical training for two years before joining the Royal Navy as a surgeon probationer. He was posted to the sloop *Camellia*. Seven months later he took his final medical exams, which he passed. In September 1917 he was sent to *Victory*, a shore-base establishment at Portsmouth, as temporary surgeon. He then briefly joined the training ship *Powerful* before being posted to *Topaze* as Surgeon Lieutenant. This old cruiser was part of the Persia Patrol, a naval squadron that ensured arms could not be shipped across the Red Sea to a Turkish-led force laying siege to Britain's Aden Protectorate. Temperatures in this region reach 104°F (40°C) and on 12th June 1918 Edwin's parents learnt he was being invalided home with sunstroke, a dangerous condition occurring when body mechanisms controlling temperature fail. Usually caused by working in the heat without taking sufficient fluids, symptoms can be a high core temperature, rapid pulse, shallow breathing and unconsciousness. Immediate treatment is essential if damage to the brain and heart, which can often prove fatal, is to be prevented. This must have been the case as Edwin died en route in Bombay.

Grave/memorial: Edwin is commemorated on the Kirkee Memorial, India at St Petroc's Church, Padstow and Padstow War Memorial.

Family info: Father: William Gostwyck Sargent, born Lewannick, near Lancelston, Cornwall in 1862. Physician and surgeon who practiced in Padstow. His father was also a doctor at Polyphant, Launceston. Mother: Agnes Hilda Bowen, born Blackwood, Monmouthshire in 1868. Her father was a priest.



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

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