



EDWARDS FAMILY



EDWARDS

Eric Stanley

Service No: 5087



Eric Stanley Edwards

Courtesy Virtual War Memorial Australia

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Eric Stanley Edwards

Service number: 5087

Date of enlistment: 24/1/1916

Age at Enlistment: 31 years

Civil Occupation: Miller

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 8 ½ inches

Weight: 146 pounds

Chest measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Grey Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: William John Edwards

Mother: Maria Ann Moulton

Siblings: Oliver James born 1882, Bevan Louis born 1886, Roy Vernon born 1899, Bede William born 1902.

Married: Ivy May Oliver

Family History

William Edwards, born around 1792, sailed to the Swan River Colony on the *Rockingham* with his wife, Eleanor, and family in 1830. An ex-soldier, William had served with the 95th and 96th Regiments and had been awarded campaign medals for the Battle of Waterloo.

Initially, he worked as a farm servant for the Peel family at Murray River before becoming a tenant on Governor Stirling's farm at Guildford, where his wife had a store.

In 1831, William purchased 200 acres at Swan Location twenty-three and, by 1841, he had leased "Sandgate," a property at York belonging to a Mr Hamersley. By 1845, William was earning his living as a farmer and grazier on 3 540 acres at Beverley, encompassing the properties "Mt. Pleasant," "Speldhurst" and "Seaton Ross."

Alfred James Edwards, a son of William and Eleanor, was born at Guildford in 1834. He married Mary Conway in 1857, and it is believed they made a trip to South Australia before returning, with a daughter, in 1858 aboard the *Ann Foster*. The couple went on to have another six children.

By 1859, the family was living in the Beverley area, where Alfred was listed as a farmer and grazier. He employed a married couple and two men at his properties "Annbrook," "Walyumgan," and "Sandgate."

William John Edwards was the eldest son of Alfred and Mary. He was born at "Sandgate" in 1859 and married Maria Ann Moulton at Beverley in 1881. Initially listed as a sheep farmer, by the 1900s William was earning his living as a contractor.

The couple had five children.

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Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star,

Height: 5 feet 8 ½ inches

Weight: 146 pounds

Chest measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Grey/blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: William John Edwards

Mother: Maria Ann Moulton

Married: Ivy May Oliver

Life Story

Eric Stanley Edwards, the second son of William John and Maria Ann, was born in York in 1884 and educated at Beverley State School.

He enlisted as a Private on the 24th January 1916 and sailed from Fremantle on the 31st March aboard HMAT *Shropshire*.

Before leaving for training in Egypt, Eric found time to get married. His bride was Ivy May Oliver, and they were married on the 1st March in the Wellington District. Eric's father, William John, was residing in Denmark at this time, and Eric probably lived at the same address.

After training in Egypt and England, Eric transferred to the 11th Battalion and, on the 22nd October 1916, proceeded overseas to France. He was Taken on Strength with the 51st Battalion on the 8th November.

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March, 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the A.I.F. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half were fresh reinforcements from Australia. The 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia.

Arriving in France on the 12th June 1916, the 51st moved into the trenches of the Western Front and fought its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and September. It suffered casualties equivalent to a third of its strength in both of the attacks. After Mouquet Farm, the Battalion saw out the rest of the year, alternating between front-line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-1917.

Eric's health suffered after his arrival in France. He was hospitalised with synovitis between the 26th December and the 2nd January, and hospitalised again, with trench foot, on the 13th February 1917 due, no doubt, to the appalling conditions on the Front line.



Re-joining his unit on the 23rd February 1917, Eric was Wounded in Action on the 31st March. He suffered an abdominal wound and had a gunshot wound to the back.

Eric was transferred to the 5th Army Advanced Operating Centre, 3rd Casualty Clearing Station, where he died of his wounds on the 1st April 1917.

Eric Stanley Edwards is buried in Plot 2, Row D, Grave No. 41, at the Pozieres British Cemetery in France.

EDWARDS

Mervyn Conway MM

Service No: 2372



PTE. MERVYN EDWARDS.

18th Battalion. Son of A. G. Edwards,
Beverley.

Mervyn Conway Edwards

Courtesy National archives of Australia

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Mervyn Conway Edwards

Service number: 2372

Date of enlistment: 28/7/1915

Age at Enlistment: 29 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Carpenter/Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star,
Military Medal

Height: 5 feet 6 inches

Weight: 127 pounds

Chest measurement: 33 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Black

Father: Alfred George Edwards

Mother: Mary Mervyn Drake

Life story

Mervyn Conway Edwards is the grandson of Alfred James Edwards and a cousin of Eric Stanley Edwards.

He was born at York in 1886, to Alfred George Edwards and Mary Drake. Alfred worked on his father's property, "Annbrook," before becoming an employee of Western Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R.), where he worked as a fettler.

Mervyn was part of a large family. His siblings were Beatrice Gertrude Mary (b.1884) Bertha Margaret (b.1888) Lily Eve (b.1890) Alfred James (b.1891) Louise Drake (b.1892) Ruby Clare (1894) Vera Irene (b.1896) Clarence Stanley (b.1899) Clarence Stanley. (1899) Ian Cecil (b.1900) and Melba Victoria (b.1903) Mary Josephine (b.1905)

Mervyn enlisted in the 28th Battalion, 5th Reinforcements, on the 28th July 1915, citing an eight-year apprenticeship as a carpenter. He left Fremantle on the 13th October, bound for Suez.

On the 16th March 1916, Mervyn left Alexandria for France. On the 22nd, he was admitted to hospital in Marseilles, where he remained until the 28th March.

Apart from six days in hospital with a fever in August, Mervyn remained with his unit and took part in the Battle of Pozieres which occurred between July and September 1916.

Early in September, he was awarded the Military Medal for Conspicuous Bravery in the Field and services rendered during the fighting at Pozieres.

Beverley.
PERSONAL.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Edwards, of Vincent street, have received information that their son, Private Mervyn Edwards, had been wounded in action and was in hospital in France. Private Edwards was wounded in the leg and arm, and is reported to be progressing favourably. He, with a number of others, was recently awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery in action in the charge at Pozieres.

On the 7th October, Mervyn was taken to the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station suffering shrapnel wounds to his arm, shoulder and leg. He embarked for England and was admitted to Keighley War Hospital. Mervyn remained in hospital until the 8th January 1917, when he was granted furlough before returning to the No. 4 Command Depot.

On the 5th April 1917, Mervyn was sent back to Australia for a break, but he did not return to the Front and was discharged from the Army on the 19th October 1917. This was probably due to the nature of his injuries. According to a local newspaper report, Mervyn's right hand was disabled which made it difficult for him to find work as a carpenter.

In June, Mervyn attended a welcome home social at the Beverley Mechanics' Institute.

By 1925, Mervyn was working in Beverley as a labourer and, by 1931, he was living in Fitzgerald Street, Northam, probably at the same address as his sister Bertha.

In 1943, Mervyn listed his address on the electoral roll as C/- George T. Haddrill who resided at "Brook Farm" near Northam.

In 1949, he was working as an orderly at Muresk Agricultural College, a role he retained until at least 1954.

Mervyn died in the Sunset Hospital in Dalkeith in 1958.

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