

Edgar MITCHELL

Corporal 205000, 5th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment

Died September 27th 1918, aged 29

Commemorated on Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Vis-en-Artois, France

Edgar Mitchell was born in 1889 to Tom and Kate Mitchell. In the 1901 census Kate (37) is shown as a mariner's wife (Tom is not with her, and was presumably at sea), and Edgar had an older sister Maud (16) and two younger sisters, Annie (7) and Olivia (3), as well as two younger brothers, Charlie (9) and Thomas (5). The 1891 census show that Edgar also had an older brother Carveth, born in 1887. In 1911, they had moved to May Cottage, Delabole, where Tom (45) was working as a Quarryman Ropeman. Edgar and his brother Tom were also working at the quarry as Roof Slaters Splitters. Olivia was still living with them, and they had had two more daughters, Agnes Mary (8) and Muriel (4). Edgar married Alberta Keat in 1912 and they lived in Lower Pengelly.

At the outbreak of war the 1/5th Battalion Devonshire Regiment was in Millbay Plymouth as part of the Devon & Cornwall Brigade, Wessex Division. In October 1914 they sailed for India to come under orders of the 3rd (Lahore) Divisional Area at Multan, then on to Lahore. In April 1917 they landed at Suez and were transferred to 232nd Brigade of the 75th Division before being transferred to the Western Front in May 1918. During Edgar's time in the middle east, the 75th fought in the Third Battle of Gaza, the capture of Junction Station, the Battle of Nabi Samweil, the Battle of Tell'Asur and the Battle of Berukin.

On June 1st 1918 they landed at Marseilles and were transferred to 185th Brigade in the 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division before proceeding to the Western Front, where they fought in the Second Battle of the Marne in July/August 1918. As part of the final offensive which ended the war, known as the Hundred Days Offensive, 62nd Division received their orders and were part of the attack on the Canal du Nord.

On 8am on September 27th the 62nd started to move forward under heavy machine gun fire. There was fierce fighting all day and by 8.30pm the 62nd held a line just east of Ribecourt-la-tour. It was in this action that he was killed.

Private Edgar Mitchell has no known grave and is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. This memorial forms the backdrop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery and contains the names of 9833 men who fell in Picardy and Artois during the period August 8th 1918 to the Armistice on November 11th 1918, and have no known grave.

After the war saw a big change for the Mitchell family, as Tom and Kate, together with Anne, Thomas, Olivia, Agnes and Muriel, all left Southampton on July 21st 1920 aboard the RMS Olympic for a new life in the United States, where they settled in Detroit.

Online research going back to the 1840s could find no direct family connection between any of the three Mitchells on our memorial, but it is likely that they are distantly related.

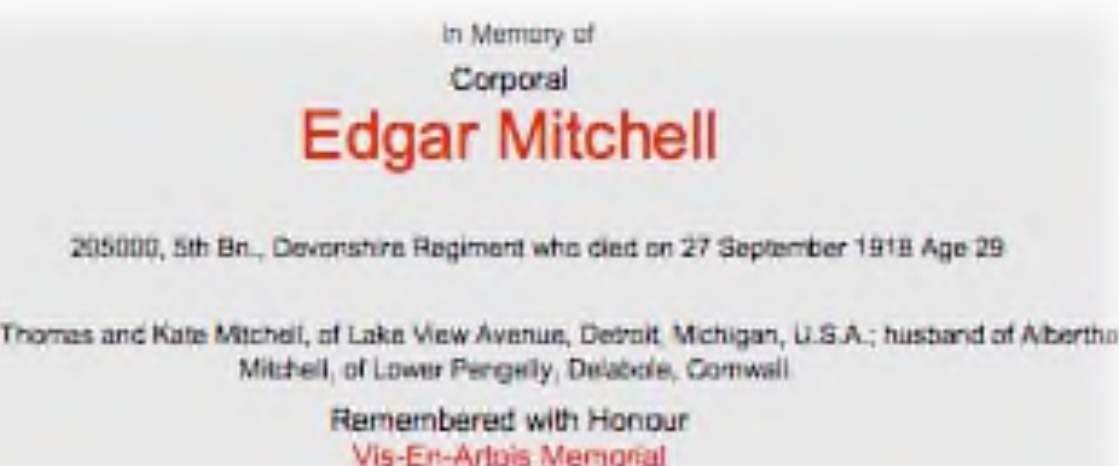


Field Dressing Station at Canal du Nord September 1918



Billy Bluett, Walter Gartrell, Mar Thomas, Harry Hatcher
Harry Leverton, Samuel Keat, Percy Harris, Alf Hill, Charlie Cory, Fred Langdon
Jackie Brown, Arthur Cann, Bromley Smith, Boxer Rowe, Edgar Mitchell, Will Audrich, F Richards

Corporal Edgar Mitchell in the Delabole Boys, all wearing Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Uniform



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Although Edgar Mitchell was in the Devonshire Regiment (cap badge on the left), the cap badges in the Delabole Boys photograph are the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (badge on the right)

Sources

Devonshire Regiments: <http://www.1914-1918.net/devons.htm>

62nd (2nd West Riding) Division: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/62nd_\(2nd_West_Riding\)_Division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/62nd_(2nd_West_Riding)_Division)

Battle of the Canal du Nord: [http://penhey.name/omiwxb262Div16\(p\).htm](http://penhey.name/omiwxb262Div16(p).htm)

Battle of the Canal du Nord picture: <https://streamsandforests.wordpress.com/tag/battle-of-the-canal-du-nord/>

We are grateful to Brenda Burnard for permission to use this excellent photo of the 'Delabole Boys'