



Edgar Heasman

Private SD 689 Royal Sussex Regiment 11th Battalion, 39th Division

Died 3rd September 1916 aged 40

Edgar was baptised in Shipley Church on 3rd September 1876, the sixth child of Thomas and Jane Heasman. He was part of Thomas and Jane's family of five sons and two daughters. The 1881 and 1891 Censuses record the family as living at Dragons Green where Thomas was employed as an agricultural labourer. Thomas and Jane's children were Sarah (1865), William (1867), James (1870), Thomas (1872), Agnes Jane (born and died in 1875), **Edgar** (1876) and Maurice (1880).

By 1891 Edgar was aged 14 and employed as an agricultural labourer. In April 1901 he joined the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway as a goods guard. He married Lily Burchell in 1899 and in the 1901 Census the newly married couple were living at Preston, Brighton. The marriage sadly, was short, as Lily died in 1903.

Edgar enlisted at Horsham in 1914 along with 3 family members and other Shipley men, typical of a 'Pals' Battalion. The 11th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment was one of the battalions known as "Lowther's Lambs" *. He is named in the Shipley Parish Magazine on the Roll of Honour drawn up in November 1914 by the Reverend Baker. In November 1915 Edgar moved with his battalion to Whitley to complete training before the 11th Battalion embarked for France in March 1916 in readiness for the coming summer offensive. Edgar was fighting in the trenches north of Hamel when he was killed in action at Beaucourt Ridge during one of the many battles of the Somme. Three Shipley men died on this day, the others of the same Battalion being Thomas Heasman and William Lucas.

Edgar was included in a special memorial service in November 1916 held by the Reverend Baker for the eight Shipley men killed during this year of terrible losses. Edgar has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and in Shipley Church.

Edgar was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

*See accompanying document 'The Southdowns Battalions'.

In Memory Of

Private

EDGAR HEASMAN

Service Number: SD/689

11th Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 03 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

Pier and Face 7 C.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION