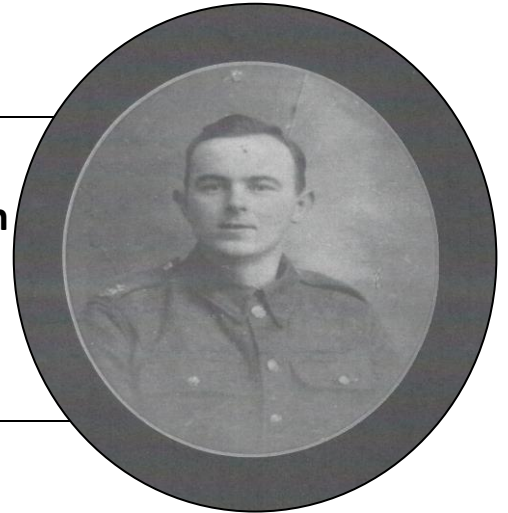


Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier: **East, Tom Dakin**
Private

10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby)
Service number: 49403



Date of birth	Date Killed in Action	Age
September 9 th 1886	September 21 st 1917	31

Background: Tom Dakin East

The 1891 Census shows the East family lived in South Scarle at what was described as ‘the village ale house’ and is now Yew Tree Farm. This branch of the Easts were:

Father: William East 38yrs Master Joiner b. Asterby, Lincolnshire c1853

Mother: Elizabeth East née Dakin born South Scarle 1855 died 1917

Children:

Emmie 9yrs born South Scarle 1881

John William 7yrs “ South Scarle 1884 buried 4th Nov 1891

George 6yrs “ South Scarle 1885 buried 20th October 1891

Fred East 3yrs “ South Scarle 1887 (see earlier profile)

Not shown:

Robert East (born September 1889 died Nov 1890 aged 14 months)

Tom Dakin East, then aged 4, is not shown on the census and may have been at his grandparents’ house.

The Easts moved to Bell Lane in Collingham around 1891, and William and Elizabeth had two further children, Mary, known as Eliza, baptised in North Collingham in February 1892 and Herbert, who was born on December 28th that year and died the next day. By the 1911 census, only Tom and Fred were still at home. Tom was a plumber by trade. He married

Laura Wells of Eagle in March 1913 at the Wesleyan Chapel on Barnby Gate, Newark. They had two children. Their son, Horace William East, was baptised in North Collingham on the 14th September 1913. Daughter Elizabeth Mary was two years younger.¹ Laura died in 1955 aged 63 and is buried in North Collingham Church. Her address was given as Low Street.² She never remarried.



Above: Tom Dakin East (2nd along) with work colleagues c 1913. Photo kindly supplied by Mr J. Tutty, Tom Dakin and Laura's grandson and Mrs E. Wilson, granddaughter.

¹ East Trent Genealogy website

² Thought to be part of Erle's Cottage on the corner of Low St, Queen St. Laura lived there until her death in 1955

Military History: Pte. Tom Dakin East

It is currently unknown when Tom was conscripted to the 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters but is likely to have been after May 1916 when all married men between 18-41 had to attest unless they had a certificate of exemption.

The 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (part of the 51st Brigade, 17th Northern Division) were raised at Derby as part of the new 'Kitchener's Army' and went to France in July 1915, moving almost immediately to the Ypres Salient. In 1916, it took part in the first ten days of continuous fighting on the Somme, suffering 381 casualties, returning for a second time in August and yet a third time in October/November.

In 1917, the Battalion fought throughout the 2nd Battle of Ypres *'suffering heavy casualties and, like the 9th Battalion, continued in the forefront of battle throughout 1918 to the end of the war.'*³

Third Battle of Ypres (31st July - 6th November 1917) also known as 'Passchendaele'

The 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters were involved in the Third Battle of Ypres. 'Buoyed up by the success of the Battle of Messines, the British Commander-in-Chief, General Haig, was of the belief that the German Army was weak and would not withstand an attempted breakthrough in the north-east of the Ypres Salient. Once a break through of the German Front Line had been achieved, the British would be able to possess the dominant views of the high ground of the Passchendaele Ridge.'⁴

The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge took place between 20th - 25th September 1917. Tom Dakin East was killed on the 21st September, less than a year since his brother, Fred East (October 8th 1916). The Sherwood Foresters' losses for September 1917 were the highest of any month in the entire war.

Report of Private T D East's death in the Newark Advertiser:

'Thursday 4 October 1917: Mother of two Laura East at Collingham discovered in the post this morning that her husband of four years, Tom, 31, a Private in the 10th Battalion Sherwoods, was dead. 'He was killed on 21 September about midnight by the explosion of a trench mortar,' wrote an officer. "Your husband had only just returned to the Company and this was his first tour in the line since rejoining."

The circumstances of Private East 'rejoining the Company' are not known. As a signaller, his skills would have been much in demand.

³ http://www.army.mod.uk/documents/general/Sherwood_Foresters_World_War_I.pdf

⁴ <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/battles/#1917alliedoffensives>

Pte T. East is buried in Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux, near Fampoux, France. Ref: IV B 55 and remembered on the North Collingham War Memorials.



Right: Photograph of Tom Dakin East's grave in Brown's Copse Cemetery courtesy of Mrs L Wilson of Winthorpe, granddaughter of Tom Dakin East & John Tutty, grandson, Radcliffe on Trent. The inscription reads 'Blessed are the pure in heart.'

Online Roll of Honour

Friday 21st September 1917

1/6th Bn.	Corporal, 240311, W. Higginbottom
1/6th Bn.	Lieutenant Colonel, Cyril Benton Johnson
10th Bn.	Private, 49403, Tom Dakin East
11th Bn.	Private, 269790, Albert Briggishaw
11th Bn.	Lance Corporal, 17769, Thomas Garlick
15th Bn.	Corporal, 82020, J. Batey
16th Bn.	Private, 76371, A. Chorlton
16th Bn.	Private, 92344, William Murless
16th Bn.	Private, 61121, R. Plumb
16th Bn.	Private, 92397, Peter Reid
16th Bn.	Private, 22874, Albert Wheatley
17th Bn.	Second Lieutenant, Harry Bracewell
17th Bn.	Lance Corporal, 31248, A. Henshaw
17th Bn.	Private, 94011, Lionel James Thomas York
20th (Labour) Bn.	Private, 46388, A. Massey

Above: Tom East's name on the list of Sherwood Foresters killed on September 21st. His battalion wasn't on the front line on that day but stray shells and mortars were an ever-present danger. In September 1917 the Sherwood Foresters suffered 621 casualties.

Tom East's brother, Fred, was also killed in the Great War – see separate profile



Sources:

- Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>)
- East Trent Genealogy (<http://www.easttrentgenealogy.co.uk/>)
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<https://www.cwgc.org/>)
- Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour (<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour>)
- The Long, Long Trail (<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/>)

- The Sherwood Foresters Roll of Honour: http://www.the-sherwood-foresters.co.uk/day%20by%20day/1917/day_by_day_september_1917.html

- Book: *Collingham and District in The Great War* by Trevor Frecknall pub 2015

With special thanks to Mrs L Wilson and Mr J Tutty for their help with Tom's profile

HP 16/4/2018