

Edward George Mayes

My grandfather Edward George Mayes was born on 5th May 1898 in Erith, Kent. He was one of seven children.



By the turn of the century Edward and his family had settled in Corringham, Essex. His father Herbert, a gun maker by trade, and his mother Elizabeth Slaughter Nobbs, had moved to the South from Norfolk where they were both born.

During The Great War, Edward served in the Royal Fusiliers in France and Belgium. On being demobbed in 1919, he worked at Van Den Burgh & Jurgens, and later Stork Margarine.



Edward and Victoria

He married Victoria Mary Sargent in 1921 and they had three sons. Stanley was born in 1921, followed by Leslie in 1922 and Robert in 1925. They set up home in Grays where all the boys were born.

Victoria known in the family as Queenie, worked at Kynoch Explosives factory in Corringham before the marriage.

Sadly Queenie died in 1927 of tuberculosis, aged only 29, leaving my grandfather to bring up the three boys which he did with help from his sisters and mother.

The family moved to Corringham and whilst living there my grandfather cycled to and from work in Purfleet everyday, a distance of 14 miles each way.

He married Maud Hazell (nee Webb) a widow with two children, Harry and Lilian in 1929. They settled at 23 Digby Road next door to his mother Elizabeth and step father William Garwood.

Edward worked in the dairy for most of his years and retired in 1964 after 45 years service.

One of his greatest wishes in life was to be an octogenarian, someone who lives between the ages of 80 and 89, which he achieved. He died in Orsett Hospital on 29th September 1979, aged 81.

Story provided by Edward's granddaughter, Pam Purkiss (nee Mayes).



Edward's WW1 medals he received whilst in the Royal Fusiliers.

Edward in his later years.

