

Edward George Sharp

Edward George Sharpe was born in 1890 and lived in Elm Road, Grays with his parents Edward and Martha and siblings. Prior to the war Edward was a cement labourer, the same as his father.

Edward enlisted into the army, and during the Battle of the Somme was searching for survivors in no man's land with five other soldiers when a shell fell near them. The soldiers fell down in a heap, with Edward underneath. This saved his life as Edward was shielded by the other soldiers, who were all killed.

Edward was badly wounded with half his jaw gone. A German soldier found Edward and took him to the German field hospital where he was nursed back to health, with his face being rebuilt by German surgeons.

When the war ended Edward returned to England where he underwent several more operations on his face but remained disfigured for the rest of his life.

After the WW1 Edward lived at 27 Dell Road, Grays with his family of six children.

He worked as a gardener for the owners of Grays Hall at the top of Orsett Road. It is understood that Edward got this job because the owner of Grays Hall had accidentally knocked down Edward's daughter in his car and the job was 'compensation'.

Later Edward worked as a cleaner in railway carriages. His house was bombed twice in WW2, firstly on 17th September 1940 and then again on 23rd October 1944 when a flying bomb caused extensive damage in that part of Grays, with loss of life. Edward died in 1956 age 66.

Story provided by Edward's granddaughter Mrs Valerie Kimmings.