

Tom Brown



Tom Brown was born about 1889 in Tilbury and worked as a fitter's mate at the Docks.

In 1914 Tom joined the Essex Regiment. He was gassed before being captured at the Somme.

Tom spent the rest of the war as a Prisoner of War in Germany.

Tom's lungs had been badly damaged and on returning home he could not hold down a job as he was always ill. In 1923 he married Ethel Gladwin from Tilbury. They lived in Lytton Road Chadwell and had two boys, Dennis and Reginald. Ethel did any work she could to get money, whilst looking after her sick husband and the two boys.



Ethel Brown
(nee Gladwin)

Sometimes the family had no food and the young boys had to glean what they could, or take cabbages and pea roots from the fields in order to live.

The family never complained about their circumstances. Tom died in approximately 1950, probably from lung cancer.



Tom Brown standing,
on the left

Below is a letter from
King George V that
thousands of POWs
received after WWI



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1918.

The Queen joins me in welcoming
you on your release from the
miseries & hardships, which you have
endured with so much patience &
courage.

During these many months of trial,
the early rescue of our gallant Officers
& Men from the cruelties of their captivity
has been uppermost in our thoughts.

We are thankful that this longed
for day has arrived, & that back in
the old Country you will be able
once more to enjoy the happiness of
a home & to see good days among
those who anxiously look for your
return.

George R. V.



In saying good-bye to
 No. 12510 Rank LANCE CORPORAL
 T. BROWN
 ESSEX REGIMENT Corps

on the occasion of his demobilization, the
 General Commanding EASTERN COMMAND
 desires to place on record the Army Council's
 appreciation of the services rendered by him
 during the present War, and to wish him all
 success and prosperity on his return to civil life.
 He trusts that L/CPL. T. BROWN
 will retain the kindest feelings towards his
 old comrades of all ranks and towards the
 unit or units in which he has served.

Warley,
 4/2/19.

Atty. Genl.
 Commanding Depot

ESSEX REGIMENT PRISONERS OF WAR FUND.

Registered under War Charities Act, 1917.

President: O.C. Depot Essex Regiment.

COMMITTEE:

Major-General Stephenson, C.B., Chairman.
 Mrs. Ventris, Mrs. Gore-Anley, Lady Stirling, Major Battley,
 Brigadier-General Beale Colvin, C.B., M.P., Hon. Treasurer.



Authorized by the Central P.O.W. Committee.

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. STEPHENSON,

75 CARLISLE MANSIONS, S W 1

Telephone: VICTORIA 224.

20-12-18
We welcome you home with all our hearts.

We are thankful beyond words that you are at last safely home.

We wish you every happiness possible during what we hope will be the brightest holiday you have ever enjoyed, after all the bitter humiliations and sufferings you have endured in the hands of the enemy.

It has been an immense anxiety to us to know how often your parcels have been delayed and undelivered. Unfortunately it was not in our power to enforce their delivery to you.

P. A. F. STEPHENSON,
 Hon. Sec.

A Very Happy Christmas—

Please for your own sake and those dear to you, do not forget that there may be hard times ahead; so make up your mind to put aside a certain part of your deferred pay for a rainy day, and, if you are in fit health on your discharge, it would be wise to lose no time in obtaining employment. Should you wish for advice or help in getting employment, I shall be glad to do what I can.