ERNEST EDWARD MARSHALL

BY AIMEE DORE
ERNEST EDWARD MARSHALL

Ernest Edward Marshall was born in Worthing, Sussex in 1887. His exact birth date is unknown but we know that it was in the time between October - December. He is the son of Charles Henry and Alice Marshall. Ernest had 3 brothers and 2 sisters. His brothers were Charles, William and Leonard, and his sisters Edith and Georgia. As a child he lived at number 5 Winton Place, Worthing. The 1901 Census showed us this information so we know it is reliable.

Ernest eventually got married to Ethel Daisy Marshall, born MacIver. We do not know if they had any children but it is probably unlikely because at the age of 25 he lived by himself and was still single. As he died at the age of 29, he probably hadn’t been married that long before he went to war.

In the war, Ernest was a Corporal. This meant he took care of small groups of 2-3 men. I think this would’ve made it harder for life in the trenches because he had to look after other people as well as himself. Ernest was killed in action on 7th June 1917 on the day of the launch of the Battle of Messines. He is buried at Dikkebosh New Military Cemetery Extension, Ypres, Belgium.
UNIFORM

“...was the best trained, best equipped and best organized British Army ever sent to War.”

James Edward Edmonds

The average British soldier would have been equipped with:

- Dress Tunic and trousers.
  This was a thick cotton tunic, instead of khaki green. There were two breast pockets for personal items and their money pay book.
  Right patches were sewn above the breast pocket. Shoulder straps were sewn on with brass buttons. Rank was sewn on to the upper tunic sleeves while trade badges, long service and Good Conduct stripes were placed on the lower sleeves.

- Stiffened Peak Cap.
  This was worn with a leather armpit and secured with two brass buttons.

- Puttees.
  These were worn around the ankles, and CS ammunition boots with hound nails on the feet.
Life in the trenches was hard. Many soldiers have written about their experiences in diaries and most of them have included the horror of daily life.

Things you might experience in the trenches:
- Rats
- Lice and Fungus
- Death of close friends, family and loved ones.
- Trench foot
- Illness
- Hunger

Rats were a big problem in the trenches. They would come in their millions and infest the trenches. There were black and brown rats but the brown were feared the most. They would eat human remains and would grow to the size of a cat! They would spread infection and contaminate food.

Whilst asleep during the night we were frequently awakened by rats running over us. When this happened too often for my liking, I would lie on my back and wait for a rat to burrow on my leg, then violently heave my legs upwards, throwing the rat into the air. Occasionally, I would hear a squeak when the rat landed as a fellow victim. - R L Venables
When Ernest was living on his own, we can tell that he had a fairly well-paid job. This is because the map shows how wealthy a person was by where they lived; it shows that he would have been fairly comfortable. His house is marked with a cross.

By using the same key, when he lived with his wife in Battersea, he was also fairly comfortable/well to-do. We can also tell that the whole area he lived in was also well to-do.
**HOUSE & WORK**

When Ernest was living by himself, he lived at 22 Wigfield Street, Westminster, London. He worked as a Hall Porter in a Hotel. This information was taken by the 1911 Census so we know it is reliable.

The job of a hotel porter was to assist hotel guests within the hotel. Their main tasks were to help carry guests luggage, booking taxis, forwarding messages etc.

This is 22 Wigfield Street where Ernest lived by himself.

(Picture 1 middle house)

(Picture 2 house to the left)

When Ernest was married, he lived with his wife Ethel at 5 Garfield Road, Lavender Hill, Battersea, South London.

[Image of a building]

[Image of a building]
WEAPONS

Weapons were the main part of the war and were definitely used the most.

**Rifle**

This was one of the main weapons used by British soldiers in the trenches. It is a bolt-action rifle. 15 rounds could be fired in 1 minute and a woman 400 meters away could be killed.

**Machine gun**

These were large, heavy guns that had the fire power of 100 guns. They needed 4-6 men to work them and needed to be on a flat surface.

**Grenade**

Munitions and was the most deadly. It was fired into the trenches in front and was thrown. It would last up to 12 hours to have effect. Effects included: wounds, burns, eye burn, vision loss, internal bleeding. Death could take up to 3 weeks.

**Zeppelin**

This is an airship that was filled in early war in the air, had bombings. The carried machine guns and bombs.

**Tanks**

These machines were used for the first time in the battle of the Somme. They were developed to cope with the conditions of the Western Front and could reach 5 mph.
WHY I CHOSE MY SOLDIER

I chose to research Ernest Edward Marshall because my great, great grandfather's name was Ernest. Marshall is also my near maiden name. Although he is not related, both of his names are included somewhere in my family tree.

Another reason for choosing Ernest Edward Marshall was because instead of being a 'Private' he was a 'corporal'. I thought that he might have more of a story behind his name therefore finding out more interesting facts about his background, life and experiences in the army.
CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

SCHEDULE.
Prepared pursuant to the Census (Great Britain) Act, 1910.

This space to be filled up by the Enumerator.

Number of Registration District 5
Number of Registration Sub-District 3
Number of Enumeration District 91

Name of Head of Family or Separate Occupier.
Mr. Marshall

Postal Address
22 Churchill Street

NOTICE.
This Schedule must be filled up and signed by, or on behalf of, the Head of the Family or other person in occupation, or in charge of the dwelling (house, tenement or apartment).

This 1911 Census of England and Wales shows that Mr. Marshall, aged 45, was a hotel porter in a hotel.
How did WW1 change Worthing?

During WW1, the women of Worthing were nurses to the wounded that came home. They would drive cars and do some of the jobs that the men would originally do.

I couldn't find much information about Worthing in the war.
In Memory of

Corporal E E Marshall

40203, 11th Bn., The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey Regiment) who died on 07 June 1917


Remembered with Honour

Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension

Commemorated in perpetuity by

the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
REGIMENT

Ernest Edward Marshall was in the 41st division, 11th Battalion of the Royal West Surrey Regiment.

The 41st Division was formed in Aldershot in September 1915. It moved to France and concentrated near Hazebrouck and Bailleul. In 1916 it took part in the battle of Flers-Courcelette, "The battle of Transy Ridges". On 1st of July in the battle of the Somme in 1917 the battle of Messines in which Ernest died.

The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment 11th Battalion was formed in Lambeth on 16th June 1915 by the Mayor and Borough of Lambeth.

The 41st division was demobilised in March 1919 with some units transferred to the reserve division. The division was not reformed after the war and did not serve in the Second World War.

The memorial to the 41st Division in the village of Flers, Somme.

Divisional Poster.
Great War West Sussex 1914-1918
www.westsussexpast.org.uk

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CONCLUSION

To find most of my evidence, I visited the library. At first, I searched up my soldier’s name into ancestry. This is where most of the information I needed came up, also used websites like roll of honour, commonwealth war graves commission. To get some more evidence, I looked at a Worthing Gazette from the library. All of this information was very useful. Once I found 1 piece of information, it lead on to another piece of research. I think that most of the information I got was reliable. I knew this because it is sheets of certificates and census that are just copied. For example, the newspaper article is reliable because it has the date on it so we know it is from 1917. If I found a piece of information from the internet, I double checked it on a different website to see if it was the same. I didn’t have many difficulties with this project. Sometimes I wanted to find out more about his early life. For example, I wanted to know if he had any siblings. To find out this information, I had to check earlier census. This is when I found out that he had lots of brothers and sisters. Overall, I really enjoyed this project. I liked looking up and finding out more about his life. I also enjoyed producing the booklet. By doing this project, I have learnt lots of things about what peoples’ lives would’ve been like before the war and also more about battle life and weaponry. I haven’t found this project particularly difficult. I think some more information on how the war changed would’ve been useful and maybe some information about how Great War grew up.