

Lest We Forget

This is the first article in a series by Chris Curry commemorating the men of Beenham who gave their lives during The Great War. Each article is published in the same month as they died exactly 100 years ago. St. Mary's church bells will be rung on the anniversary of the men's death.

EDWARD ROBERT WARING
Second Lieutenant
1st Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps
Died 29 October 1914, aged 20



EDWARD ROBERT WARING was the younger son of Captain and Mrs. Waring, of Beenham House, born 13th December 1893. Quite when Edward came to live in Beenham is not clear. In the census of 1901, he was living in Chelsea, aged 7 years, described as having been born in Scotland. Between 1908-10, he was educated at Wellington College (Stanley). The 1911 census shows him still in Chelsea at 51 Hans Road, with sister's Melloney Mary and Irene Margaret, and his parents William Wheat and Sophia Anne Waring. William had inherited Beenham Manor and estate from his father, Henry Waring when he died in 1909, aged 87. William Wheat Waring continued to live in Beenham Manor overseeing the sale of lands in 1913 and the early 1920's until his death in 1926.

Edward was gazetted to the 5th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps in October 1913, enrolled at Aldershot on 4th April 1914 as part of the 6th Brigade, 2nd Division and promoted to Lieutenant in June 1914; he was granted a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion in September, 1914.

Edward was mobilised arriving in Rouen on Thursday 13th August. He reached Mons at 1130hrs on Sunday 23rd, from where he was ordered to retire on the 24th and the Battalion marched south. The retreat from Mons continued until Sunday 6th September when the Battalion was ordered to engage the enemy. On Thursday 10th, "they took part in an attack on Hautesvesnes where their training and discipline came to the fore and compelled a large force of Germans to surrender, taking 550 prisoners but not before they had caused more than 150 casualties". The Battalion remained on the Aisne until early October when they were sent to Ypres where they were billeted in the town. On Monday 26th pressure in the Zonnebeke area saw Lt. Waring take his men towards Polygon Wood occupying the line between the Passchendaele Ridge and the Keiberg Spur. They repulsed an attack, but on Thursday 29th another attack was made during which he was killed.

Lt. Waring is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial, Belgium, Panel 51 and 53 and his name appears on the Beenham war memorial. There is also a plaque in St. Mary's church.

Edward's older brother, Charles Henry was a Captain in the 18th Hussars. He survived the war, married first Edith Anne Greenfield and second, Rosemary Lidell; he died in 1962. Edward's sister Melloney Mary Waring married Capt. W. C. Loder-Symonds who is also shown on the Beenham war memorial.