

**EDWIN LAMBERT**

**1880 - 1918**

**East Surrey Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**



**Surname/Christian name:** Edwin Lambert

**Rank/No:** Private G/33756

**Regiment/Unit:** 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment



**Date of Death:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1918 in a German POW camp hospital.

**Age:** 38 years

**Type of Casualty:** Record only shows 'Died'.

**Theatre of War:** Klein Zillibeke Sector, near Ypres, Belgium.

**Born/Year/Location:** Edwin was born in Horsmonden in the first quarter of 1880

**Enlisted/Attestation:** Canterbury

**Son of/Address:** The son of Thomas Lambert of Horsmonden and Katherine Horsnell, St. George, London

**Husband of/Address:** Florence Lambert (Golding) of South View, Horsmonden.

**Buried/Commemorated/Memorial:** Sarralbe Military Cemetery. (Mohange Cemetery)

**Personal Inscription from Florence:** "FAITHFULL UNTO DEATH"

Edwin's grave, and 9 others in Mohange Cemetery were dug up but their bodies were not found in the position indicated. Edwin's details were on the cross erected by the Germans in the Mohange cemetery. The Cemetery at Sarralbe, was cleared of German soldier's graves and used solely for Commonwealth soldiers who died in German POW camps. There are special memorials in Sarralbe for the 10 soldiers from Mohange Cemetery whose bodies were not found.

**Military Record/Service Details:** There are no service records available but following the 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment's movements through War Diary's, Regimental history, and newspaper articles, his movements can be followed.

The record from "Soldiers Died in the Great War" shows the following:-

**Name/Birthplace:** Edwin Lambert, Horsmonden

**Enlistment Place:** Canterbury

**Rank:** Private, **Regiment:** East Surrey, Regimental number: 33756, Battalion: 9th

**Date of Death:** 22 Oct 1918, Type of Casualty: Died

Edwin entered the war in France, March 1917

In early August 1917 Edwin was captured during heavy fighting in the Klein Zillibeke Sector, near Ypres, Belgium. During this brief period of capture, he was wounded and then rescued.

**Other Relevant Documents:**

**Medals Received: British War and Victory Medals**

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
LAMBERT Edwin	31 E Surr B	Pte	33756
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	E/11/103 <sup>4</sup> 4	2766	
BRITISH	as	as	
THATRE OF WAR FIRST SERVED IN			
DATE OF ENTRY THEREIN			

**SOLDIERS EFFECTS**

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorized	Amount Authorized	No. of List in which advised		
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£					s.	d.
915116	8703143	Lambert Edwin	E. Surrey Pte 33756	22/10/18 P.O.W. Germany	Income	31	7	5				22.8.19	Mrs. Florence	31	7	5

*Including War Gratuity £8-10*

Name Lambert, Edwin Reg No. 318723 11/10/14  
 Regiment East Surrey Rank Pte Case No. 2260  
 Form 104-88 received 19.5.19 Date of notification of death 2.6.19 Form 104-76 received 29.5.19  
 Date and cause of death 22.10.18 While in service of War  
 Widow Florence, South View, Horsmonden, Kent Date of birth 1878  
 Children: —  
 Pension: — a week from —  
 Date awarded: — If refused, reason: —  
 Papers: —  
 Form 104-88 (Rev. 1/22) 1/28 J.P. G.P. 188

2260  
 Mrs F. Lambert,  
 South View,  
 Horsmonden,  
 Kent.  
 G/33756, Pte Lambert, Edwin,  
 East Surrey.

**Other Military Notes of Interest:** Edwin was called up for military service in 1916 and appealed against it. He was given a 3 month conditional exemption on the 26th June at the Tonbridge Rural Tribunal held at the Tonbridge Union in Pembury.

He almost certainly made a second appeal at the end of the 3 month exemption and was given a further 3 months exemption from late September until late December 1916.

A further appeal at the end of December was dismissed and the following article appeared in the Kent & Sussex Courier on Friday 26th January 1917....

#### **HORSMONDEN**

**A PROTEST - "Quite a number of letters have reached us protesting against the decision of the Tribunal in regard to Mr. E. Lambert, a most useful parishioner, who is regarded as indispensable to the parish. We cannot, unfortunately, do more than record the fact of the protest."**

With no other option, Edwin joined up and was placed in the East Surrey Regiment.

[A Month's Experience at the Front around mid-July 2017 written by Pte Edwin Lambert.....](#)

#### **Relevant Military/Diary of Events:**

The Kent & Sussex Courier of Friday 24th August 1917, carried the story...

#### **HORSMONDEN - Pte. E. LAMBERT**

*"Private E. Lambert, of Horsmonden, East Surrey Regiment, was wounded on August 5th by shrapnel in the right leg, and is now in Hospital in Cheshire, where he is making good progress towards recovery.*

*Private Lambert, with nine or ten others, was in a dug-out resting when word came to stand to.*

*The Germans, who had made a counter attack, had surrounded them, and after retiring over shell holes half-full of water and being smothered with mud, Private Lambert and three others, who had become separated from the rest of the party, were taken prisoners.*

*It was while in German hands that he was wounded by a shell, the leading German being shot through the shoulder at the same time.*

*Shells and bullets by this time were falling so thick that the others had to take refuge in a shell hole for a time. Private Lambert had fallen into one half-full of water, and, providing a shell did not drop too close, was fairly safe. After about half-an-hour the shelling ceased, and the others decided to make a "bolt for it", which they did, and two of them, returning later, rescued Private Lambert.*

*Private Lambert was called up in March last, and had been up in the fighting line about a month.*

*He is well known in Horsmonden and district, when he held at the time of his call up, several important parochial offices, besides being a respected business man.*

*His business is now carried on by his wife."*

Following his recovery, Edwin re-joined his battalion and again found himself in the thick of the fighting in the Ypres area during the German Spring Offensive of 1918.

On the 26th March, Edwin was fighting in the trenches in Fonches Fonchette when they found themselves completely surrounded and vastly outnumbered, suffering many casualties and Edwin was captured once again, and taken to Germany.

#### **An account of the 26th March 1918 from the 9th Battalion East Surrey war diary as follows....**

##### *FONCHES - E. of HALLU - 26th March*

*At 1 a.m. the Battalion withdrew to a line 2000 yards EAST of FONCHES between HALLU and HATTENCOURT. This was an old enemy front line that had been evacuated by the enemy in 1916.*

*At 7.45 a.m. a message was received that our right flank had given and had withdrawn.*

*At 8 a.m. another message reported that the trench 30 yards immediately in front of the Bn. was full of the enemy. There was a good deal of Machine Gun firing on both sides, the Battalion inflicting many casualties in the enemy ranks. At 8.30 a.m. the enemy launched a violent attack all along the front.*

*The Bn. was garrisoning a front of about 1400 yards and beat off the enemy again and again, causing very heavy casualties in the enemies' ranks. The Bn. was determined to hold on at all costs and would not withdraw. The right flank had gone at 7.45 a.m. and the left flank went at 8.30 am.*

*Under Major C. A. Clark's command, defensive flanks were at once formed and still we held the enemy back against terrific odds.*

*The Battalion. continued this great stand against overwhelming numbers, every officer and man fighting to the last, until 9.30 a.m. when it was completely surrounded. Major C.L. Clark kept on fighting until the last and is believed to be a prisoner of war.*

*Only three officers and about 30 men succeeded in getting away.*

*This great stand by the Bn. held the enemies advance up for over an hour, besides inflicting heavy casualties in his ranks.*

*From the 26th March 1918 to 8th April 1918 the remnants of the Bn. were attached to the 8th Bn. Royal West Kent's until the arrival of the Brigade. at FRANLEN when the Battalion became a separate unit once more."*

Three months later, Edwin's wife, Florence, received news of her husband which was reported in the – Kent & Sussex Courier of Friday 28th June 1918...

#### **HORSMONDEN - PTE. E. LAMBERT**

*"Mrs. Edwin Lambert, of South View, has received a postcard from her husband saying he is now a prisoner of war in Germany. After waiting in suspense for three months the news was a great relief to his wife and many friends." - Much worse news was to follow.*

**Edwin died in a German POW camp Hospital on the 22nd October 1918, just 20 days before the war ended**, and was buried in Mohange German Military Cemetery, Moselle, France, near the German border. At the end of the war, Soldiers who had died in POW camps were exhumed and reburied in Sarralbe Military Cemetery.

[A copy of the Diary of Pte Edwin Lambert dated March 26<sup>th</sup> 1918 to his passing Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.....](#)

**Personal Details:** In 1905 Edwin married Florence Golding, the daughter of Jesse and Dorcas Golding, both of Goudhurst. Dorcas died in 1879 when Florence was 3.

Edwin & Florence had no children.

**Siblings:** Ernest Charles b. 1878, Katherine Emma b. 1882 and died aged 12 in 1894, Frances Agnes b. 1884

**Half siblings:** Thomas b 1852, Mary Caroline b. 1854, William Henry b. 1855, Richard Benjamin b. 1857, Lydia Jane b. 1859, Joseph Albert b 1861 and died in 1861, aged 6 months, Julia Elizabeth b. 1862. Joseph Alfred b. 1864, Frederick John b. 1867

**Prior Occupation:** Carpenter, Decorator, Builder. Undertaker Edwin was also Horsmonden Parish Relieving Officer.

**Family History:** Thomas and Katherine married in 1877 in Horsmonden after Thomas's first wife, Mary Caroline Thorn died in 1875.

Edwin's father Thomas was a master carpenter as was his grandfather, Mallion Lambert.

Edwin grew up in the Hazel Street area of Horsmonden and when of age, worked for his father in the carpentry business.

**Other Articles of Interest:** Edwin's grandfather, Mallion Lambert, with two of his sons, Mallion jnr and Thomas (Edwin's Uncle and father) built the Scott's Tower, Horsmonden, for William M Smith-Marriott in 1858. The bricklayers were brothers John and Henry Styles of Horsmonden.



**Commonwealth War Graves Commission Entry**

CWGC CERTIFICATE

In Memory Of  
Private

**EDWIN LAMBERT**

Service Number: 33756

9th Bn., East Surrey Regiment who died on 22 October 1918 Age 38

Son of Thomas and Catherine Lambert, of Horsmonden, Kent; husband of Florence Lambert, of Rose Bank, Hawkhurst,  
Kent Parish Clerk of Horsmonden.

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

Remembered with Honour

SARRALBE MILITARY CEMETERY

Morhange German Cem. Mem. 8.



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COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

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**SARRALBE MILITARY CEMETRY**



