



Boer War Casualty

Private Edwin George Ovens

Edwin George Ovens was born in Coombe Bissett in 1871 and baptised on the 8th March 1871 in the parish church. He was the son of Charles and Harriet Ovens.

The 1871 at the Street, Coombe Bissett records:-

Charles Ovens, Head, 51, Agricultural Labourer; Harriette, Wife, 33; Walter Ovens, Son, 12, Plough boy; Alfred H., Son, 6, Scholar; Emily S., Daughter, 5, Scholar; Sarah A., Daughter, 2; Edwin G., Son, Infant - all were born in Coombe Bissett.

In 1881 the family had moved to Cheapside, Codford St. Mary and is recorded:-

Harriet Ovens, Wife of Head, 39; Alfred H., Son, 16, Agricultural Labourer; Emily S., Daughter, 15; Edwin G., Son, 11, Scholar; Henry J., Son, 7, Scholar; Roseina S., Daughter, 5, Scholar - all were born in Coombe Bissett except Roseina who was born in Charlton. Also recorded is Henry Prince an unmarried lodger, aged 29 and working as an agricultural labourer, he was born in Cranborne, Dorset.

Charles Ovens, as head of the family is not recorded with the family in either the 1881 or 1891 census which lists Harriet as head of the family with daughter Emily and son Henry. Henry Price is still lodging with them and they had moved to 50 West Street Warminster. It should be noted that Harriet is not recorded as a widow and in 1891 is recorded as living of means. No death for Charles has been found up to this period and no trace can be found of him in 1881 or 1891 census.

In the September Quarter of 1899 Edwin George Ovens married Elizabeth Cable of Corsley.

From Bloemfontein it is reported that 2659 Private E. G. Ovens died of enteric fever, on May 10th. He had already been reported as ill.

Much regret was felt in Warminster, among his comrades at the Post Office and elsewhere, when news was received, first of the illness and then of the death of Private Ovens, and much sympathy is felt with the widow he leaves behind. It was only a few weeks ago that a brother of Ovens died through injuries due to the kick of a horse, leaving a widow and children. Private Ovens was engaged at Warminster as a rural postman, and his popularity among his fellow workmen was shown by the presentation they made him when he was called out among other reservists towards the end of last year. His widow resides at Bugley. Ovens, who had been married about two years, leaves no children.

Warminster and Westbury Journal, Saturday, 19 May 1900