

Durrington

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



10344 PRIVATE

E. C. LAWES

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S (WILTSHIRE REGIMENT)

15th JUNE, 1915 AGE 20

Edgar Charles LAWES

Edgar Charles Lawes was born at Semley, Wiltshire to parents Frederick George & Sarah Anne Lawes (nee Howell). Edgar Charles Lawes was baptised on 7th October, 1894 at St. Leonard's Church, Semley. Edgar's parents had married at the Church of St. Andrew at Donhead, Wiltshire in 1882. Edgar's birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1894.

The 1901 Census recorded Edgar as a 6 year old, living with his family at Gutch Common, Semley, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as Fredrick Lawes (Rabbit trapper, aged 46, born Donhead St. Mary) & Sarah A. Lawes (aged 53, born Donhead St. Andrew). Edgar was one of their 3 children listed in this Census – Reginald (aged 15), Edgar & Leonard (aged 13). Also listed as boarders were Henry J. Mould (aged 11) & Bertha Mould (aged 6).

A death was registered in June quarter, 1901, in the district of Tisbury for Sarah Anne Lawes, aged 52 – Edgar's mother.

Frederick George Lawes (Edgar's father) remarried in 1902 to Elizabeth Frowd, in St Paul's Church (Fisherton Anger) Salisbury. The marriage was registered in the district of Salisbury in the March quarter, 1902.

The 1911 Census recorded Edgar Charles Lawes as a 16 year old, living with his family & stepmother in a 4 roomed dwelling at Beacon View, Durrington. His father was listed as Frederick George Lawes (Egg Dealer, aged 57) & his stepmother as Elizabeth Lawes (aged 49). Frederick & Elizabeth had been married for 4 years & had one child together. Edgar's occupation was listed as "Assisting in the Business" – assuming this was Egg Dealing. Also listed were Edgar's older brother & half-sister – Albert Reginald Howell Lawes (General Labourer, aged 25) & Bessie Lawes (aged 6, born Durrington).

Edgar Charles Lawes enlisted at Durrington with the Duke of Edinburgh's – Wiltshire Regiment in 1914. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 10344. Private Lawes's records show that at the time of his death he was attached to "C" Coy. 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

Edgar Charles Lawes was killed in action on 15th June, 1915, aged 20 years.

War Diary – 15th June, 1915

Regiment: 2nd Wiltshire

Location: France, Givenchy Trenches

Entry: During the day trench J7 - I5 was shelled and the defenders (2 platoons of each 'C' & 'D' Coys) suffered a few casualties. At 6pm the battalion commenced to attack the line I12, J14 -J13. On quitting their trenches, the leading companies ('C' & 'D') were subjected to a heavy frontal and enfilade fire, the latter from I4 - I9. As the advance progressed it was enfiladed by machine gun fire from both flanks, on the right from the foot of the hill between I12 & I3, on the left from machine guns concealed in the grass somewhere west of J13 'B' coy followed in support of 'C' & 'D' and

occupied J9 -15. 'A' coy in reserve in Scottish trench. 'A' Company had been kept in reserve intact, as it had orders to make a reconnaissance after the position had been captured, the reconnaissance to be on VIOLAINES. The firing line reached a point about 50 yards west of German trench at J14. There was then only one officer not hit in the two leading companies. At 7.5pm half 'A' company went forward to endeavour to push on the attack which had been held up. This half company with half 'D' company then advanced, and were subjected to enfilade fire from the crater, and could not advance beyond the disused Old German trench. At 9pm the situation was as follows:- The regiment was occupying the old German trench, with 'C' & 'D' Coys in front of them, and the trench J7 - 15, and were in touch with the Grenadier Guards on left of J7. Groups from 'C' & 'D' companies were returning to old German trench from the front. Orders were received to attack the German line at 9.15pm in conjunction with the Bedford Regt & Yorkshire Regt. The time was subsequently altered to 10pm. In order to form up for the attack the companies which were holding the old German trench & were being enfiladed from the right were ordered back to Scottish trench with orders to form up in rear of it to clear the field of fire of the company holding J7 - 15. The order to attack was subsequently cancelled as far as the Regiment was concerned, and instructions were received to hand over the trenches to the Bedford Regt and return to WINDY CORNER. [continued from 15th] During the action of 15th 16th, the Germans used incendiary bullets, and also sniped the wounded in front of their trenches.

Pte Edgar Lawes was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows that he had entered a Theatre of War on 25th February, 1915 in France.

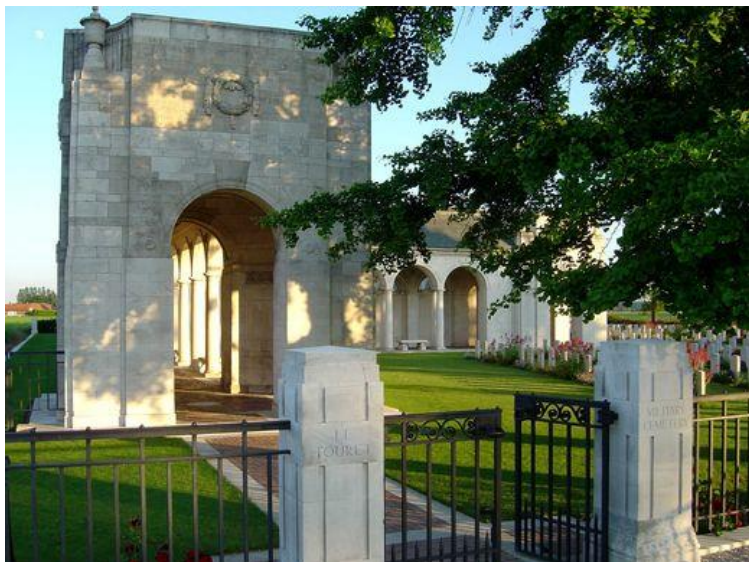
Pte Edgar Charles Lawes is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial in France – Panel 33 and 34, as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Pte Edgar Charles Lawes as the son of Frederick George Lawes of 61 Belle Vue Rd, Salisbury.

Le Touret Memorial, France

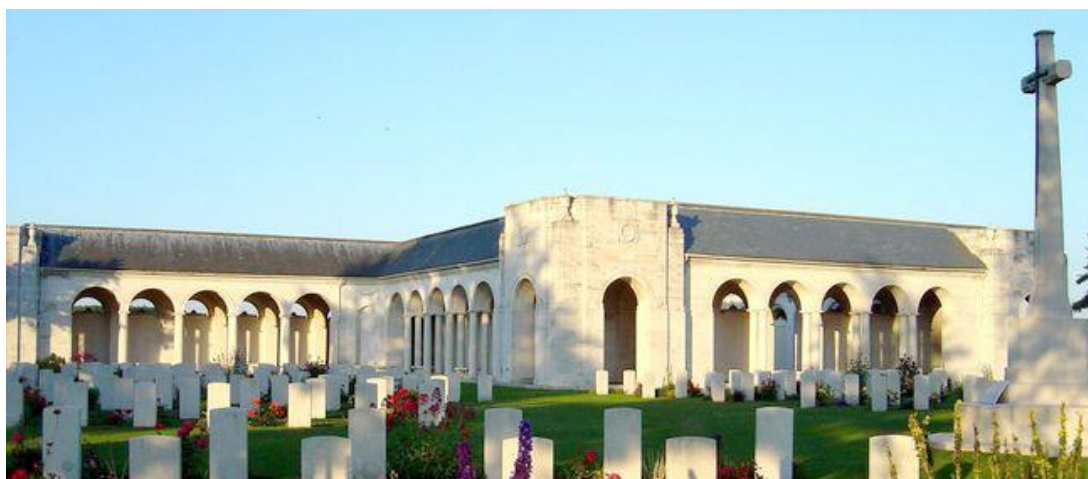
Le Touret Memorial is located at the east end of Le Touret Military Cemetery on the Bethune-Armentieres main road. The Memorial takes the form of a loggia surrounding an open rectangular court. The court is enclosed by three solid walls and on the eastern side by a colonnade. East of the colonnade is a wall and the colonnade and wall are prolonged northwards (to the road) and southwards, forming a long gallery. Small pavilions mark the ends of the gallery and the western corners of the court.

The Le Touret Memorial commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October, 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in a late September, 1915 and who have no known grave. The names of those commemorated are listed

on panels set into the walls of the court and the gallery, arranged by Regiment, Rank & alphabetically by surname within the rank.

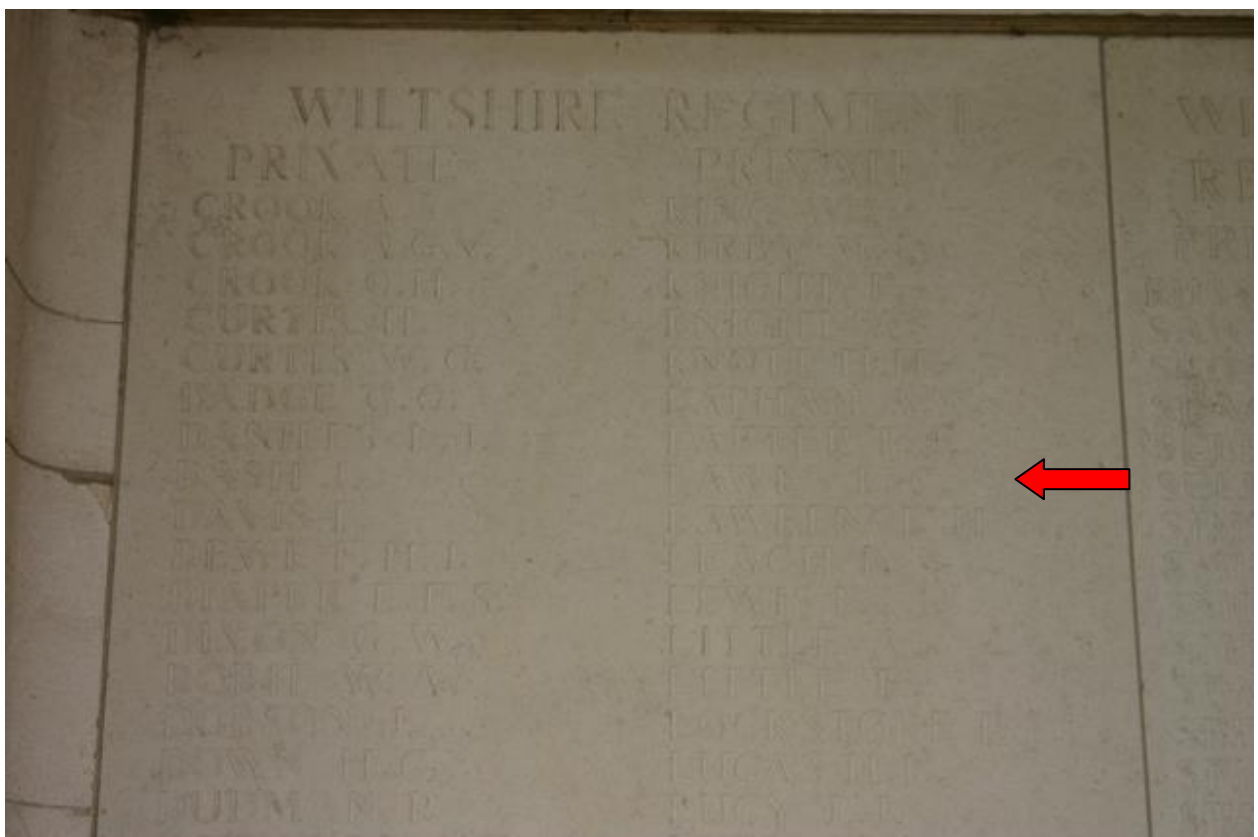


(Photos from [In Memories](#) by Pierre Vandervelden)





(Photo from CWGC)



Le Touret Memorial *(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*

E. C. Lawes is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Durrington.

Pte Edgar C. Lawes is remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)