

# Durrington

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War I



25872 PRIVATE

**E. A. KEEL**

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S (WILTSHIRE REGIMENT)**

**12th JUNE, 1917**

## Edwin Alfred KEEL

Edwin Alfred Keel was born at Netheravon, Wiltshire in 1880 to parents Charles & Emma Keel (nee Brinsden). Edwin's parents had married at St Thomas a Beckett Church at Tilshead, Wiltshire in 1879. Edwin's birth was registered in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1880.

The 1881 Census recorded Edwin A. Keel as the only child, aged 6 months old, living with his parents at Netheravon St, Netheravon, Pewsey, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as Charles Keel (Agricultural Labourer, aged 23, born Netheravon) & Emma Keel (aged 24, born Tilshead).

A death was registered in June quarter 1882 for Charles Keel, aged 25 in the district of Pewsey.

A birth was registered in September quarter 1882 for Charles Norton Keel – a brother for Edwin & a second son for his newly widowed mother.

A marriage was registered in the December quarter of 1883, in the district of Pewsey between Emma Keel & George Macklin.

The 1891 Census recorded Edmund Keel as a 10 year old living with his younger brother, mother & stepfather at Durrington, Wiltshire, in a 3 roomed dwelling. Their details were – George Macklin (Agricultural labourer, aged 53, born Upavon), Emma Macklin (aged 34) & Charles Keel (aged 8, born Netheravon).

The 1901 Census records Edwin Keel as a 20 year old, General Labourer in a Military Camp, living with his brother, mother & stepfather at Durrington, in a 3 roomed dwelling. Their details were – George Macklin (Roadman, aged 63), Emma Macklin (aged 43) & Charles Keel (aged 18, General Labourer in a Military Camp). Also living with the family was William Hine (Farm Carter, aged 22, born – Not known).

The 1911 Census records Edwin Keel as a single, 30 year old living with his brother, mother & stepfather in a 5 roomed dwelling at Belmont Villa, Durrington. Their details were – George Macklin (Labourer, aged 71), Emma Macklin (aged 54) & Charles Keel (aged 28, Labourer).

Edwin A. Keel married Ethel M. Hibberd at St Mary's Church, Wylve, Wiltshire. Their marriage was registered in March quarter, 1912 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. A birth was registered in the district of Amesbury in the March quarter, 1916 for Ethel M. Keel (Mother's maiden name Hibberd).

Edwin Alfred Keel enlisted at Salisbury with the Duke of Edinburgh's - Wiltshire Regiment. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 25872. Private Keel's records show that at the time of his death he was attached to 6th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

Pte Edwin Alfred Keel was killed in action on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1917, aged 37 years (listed as 34 years – CWGC).

## **War Diary : 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1917**

*6th Wiltshire Regiment*

Location : Belgium, Oosterveane Wood

Entry: G.O.C. 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade and Commanding Officer went round trenches at 2/30 a.m. Enemy shelled continuously all the afternoon – 3 other ranks killed and 2 wounded.

([The Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire & Wiltshire)

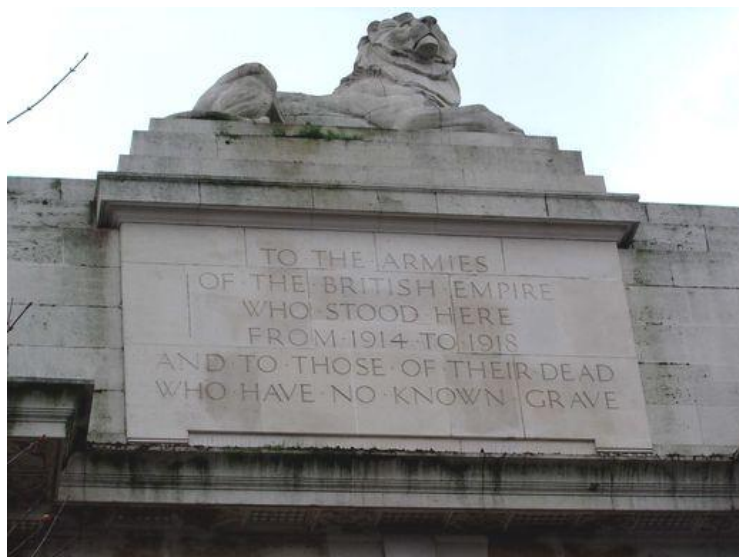
Pte Edwin Alfred Keel is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial – Panel 53 - in Belgium as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Edwin Alfred Keel as the son of Mrs G. Maton of Belmont Villa, Bulford Rd, Durrington; husband of Ethel May Hall (formerly Keel) of The Lane, Durrington, Wilts. (Edwin's widow Ethel Keel had married James Hall at Amesbury Register Office in December quarter, 1917) & (Edwin's stepfather - George Macklin's death, aged 74, was registered in March quarter, 1917 at Amesbury. Edwin's mother Emma remarried for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time to George Maton at All Saints Church at Durrington. The marriage was registered in December quarter 1918, in district of Amesbury.)

Pte Edwin Alfred Keel was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show when he had entered a Theatre of War.

## **Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**

The Menin Gate Memorial is located at Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium & has 54,406 identified casualties of officers & men whose graves are not known. It is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands who passed it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom.

Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.





(Photographs courtesy of [In Memory](#) by Pierre Vandervelden)



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



Edwin Keel is remembered on his stepfather's headstone located at Durrington Cemetery – Plot 167.



*Also Of My Dear Son Edwin A. Keel,  
Who Was Killed In France  
On June 12, 1917, Aged 36 Years.  
“Gone But Not Forgotten.”*

Pte Edwin Keel is also remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)