

Three Moores brothers

FEBRUARY 1916 - APRIL 1916



The above is a photograph of the late Gunner E. A. Moores, whose death at the Front was recorded last week.

E A Moores

There were many families from Marlow and the surrounding area who had more than one man who joined up during the War. These three panels tell the stories of three brothers from the Moores family from Bovington Green during the period from March to May 1916. In this panel, we concentrate on Edward Moores.

MOORES, Gnr. Edward Albert, 40837. 78th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 4th March, 1916. Age 19. Son of Clara Moores, of Bovington Green, Great Marlow, Bucks., and the late George Moores. H. 26.

Extract from South Bucks Free Press announcing Edward's death

A Marlow family

Edward was born in April or May 1896 in Marlow. His father, George, was a farm labourer who married Clara Goldswain in 1885. Both of them originally came from Marlow. They had six children in total - four boys and two girls. Edward was the youngest of the boys. In the last census before the War in 1911, he is recorded as working as an errand boy and living with his parents and two siblings in Bovington Green.



Royal Field Artillery in action during the First World War. Courtesy of Imperial War Museum.

Edward enlists

We don't know when precisely Edward volunteered for the Army, but it is likely it was quite soon after the War broke out in summer 1914. He enlisted in London and joined the Royal Field Artillery as Gunner 40837. We know that he was certainly serving in France by July 1915.

Killed in action

By March 1916, Edward's Brigade was deployed near Ypres in Belgium to support the British infantry there and was involved in heavy artillery exchanges with the opposing German forces. The Brigade diary records that between 4.30pm and 5.30pm on 4 March the Germans heavily shelled the British dugouts and artillery positions. By the time the shelling had finished, the Brigade had lost five men, including Edward. He was just 19 when he was killed and is commemorated in the Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, Ypres.

Edward's brothers

As the other panels show, one of Edwards's brothers, William, was taken prisoner by the Turks in Mesopotamia in April 1916 and died in captivity the following month. Also in March 1916, the eldest brother, George lost an appeal against being conscripted. He was killed in France in 1918. Their father had died in November 1915. A fourth brother also served and survived the War. As the South Bucks Free Press reported at the time, 'much sympathy is felt for Mrs Moores on whom the hand of fate has fallen very heavily.'



Dickebusch New Military Cemetery where Edward is commemorated. Courtesy of Commonwealth War Graves Commission