
Herbert Sidney EMMS (1892-1915)

Herbert Sidney Emms' connection to North Lopham is by birth and residency.

Herbert's brothers, Albert and Wilfred, also died in The Great War.

Herbert Sidney EMMS, son of Walter EMMS (c. 1857-) and Elizabeth ROLFE (c. 1858-), was born on 27 April 1892 in North Lopham, Norfolk.^{1 2} He was baptised on 3 July 1892 in North Lopham , the ceremony was conducted by Rev. R W PITT, curate - parents Walter (labourer) and Elizabeth.¹

On 31 Mar 1901, (the 1901 Census), he was living at The Street in North Lopham - 10, scholar, living with parents Walter (44, agricultural labourer) and Elizabeth (43), and sibling George William (20, agricultural labourer), Frederick William (18, bricklayers labourer), Josiah (16, agricultural labourer), Charles Edward (14. agricultural labourer). Albert Ernest (12, scholar), Blanche Eveline (6, scholar) and Wilfred (3).³

In the 1911 Census (2 Apr 1911) he appeared at The Green in North Lopham - 22, farm labourer, living with parents Walter (54, farm labourer) and Elizabeth (53), and sibling Charles (25, farm labourer), Albert (22, farm labourer), Blanche (17, living at home) and Wilfred (13, scholar).⁴

Herbert died on 13 August 1915 in Aegean Sea. He is buried/commemorated at Helles Memorial - CWGC: EMMS, Pte. Herbert Sidney, 20661. 1st Bn. Essex Regt. 13th Aug., 1915. Age 23.. Son of Walter and Elizabeth Emms, of North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk.

On 18 August 1916 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal:

IN MEMORIAM.

In ever loving memory of Herbert Sidney, sixth beloved son of Walter and Elizabeth Emms, of North Lopham, drowned by the sinking of the Royal Edward in the Aegean Sea, on August 13th, 1915, aged 25 years.

Far away in a watery grave.

***Is one we loved but could not save;
We hope to meet him in heaven above,
Where all is joy and peace and love.
Sleep on, our loving son and brother,***

***For you the strife is o'er, your duty done;
Your memory treasured is by one and all;
Sleep on, dear Sid, till the last roll call.
Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.***

No service records for Herbert have been found. He is listed in the C.W.G.C. fatalities, and has medal records.

Herbert was 'lost at sea' but was a soldier. He was being transported to Gallipoli as part of reinforcements, made up of British and Canadian soldiers, and medical staff.

On the morning of 13 August 1915, in the Aegean Sea, the H.M.T. Royal Edward passed the British hospital ship H.M.H.S. Soudan, heading in the opposite direction. The German submarine UB-14 was off the island of Kandeloussa and saw both ships. The Soudan was allowed to pass unmolested, and attention was focussed on the unescorted Royal Edward. One of the of UB-14 's two torpedoes was fired from about one mile away and hit Royal Edward in the stern. She sank by the stern within six minutes. Different sources reported different numbers of casualties, as many as 1,386, Herbert Sidney being one of them. (Also Lost in the same incident was another Lopham man, Percy George PRENTICE.).

Sources

1. *PR - Baptism*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 3 July 1892.
2. *CR Birth*. 1892 Q2 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 361. Cit. Date: Q2 1892.
3. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 7 Page 5 Schedule 31. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
4. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11745 RD239 SD2 ED18 SN6. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.