

Lance Corporal Henry Charles Edghill[©]

Regimental number: 1011

2nd Battalion, Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)

born: 1895 – died: 13 July 1916

Lance Corporal Henry Charles Edghill, the eldest son of Henry and Ellen Edghill,¹ was born in 1895 in Islington, London.² His parents, Henry Charles Edghill and Ellen Louisa Panter were both born in London—Henry in about 1877 and Ellen about a year later³—and married in Islington in 1894.⁴ They had seven children: Henry Charles, Ellen Louisa (born in 1897),⁵ Josiah William (born in 1898),⁶ Annie Elizabeth (born in 1903),⁷ James Alfred (born in 1905),⁸ Alice Matilda (born in 1908, but died the following year)⁹ and William Harold (born in 1910).¹⁰

In 1901, the family was living at 49 Frederick Street in Islington, where Henry Senior was an iron moulder. By 1911 they had moved to 60 Moneyer Street in Hoxton North. Henry Junior had joined his father in the iron works and was working as a shop boy.

Henry Junior enlisted as a private in the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) in Shoreditch, London.¹¹ The Leinsters was one of eight Irish regiments—Irish because it was largely raised in Ireland and had its home depot in Birr, Ireland.¹²

Henry joined the front on 9 July 1915. His medal rolls index card indicates that he joined the front in the Balkans. The 1st Battalion of the Leinster Regiment was in the Balkans at the time.¹³ However, when he died, Henry was with the 2nd Battalion.¹⁴ In early July 1916, the 2nd Battalion was in Belgium and engaged in working parties near Locre, about 10 kilometres southwest of Poperinge.¹⁵ It is not known how Henry was injured, but he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died on 13 July.¹⁶ In July 1916, No. 1 CCCS received 2,810 admissions, of whom 70 died.¹⁷

He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: Section II, Row E, Grave 40). Bailleul had become an important hospital centre for not just No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station but also No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.

Henry was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).¹⁸ His father made an application to receive his medals in October 1922.

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¹ “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Henry Charles Edghill, Registration district: Shoreditch, Registration district number: 16, Sub-registration district: Shoreditch South, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 21, Piece: 1342

² “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Edith Amy Mawby, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 398

³ “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Henry Charles Edghill

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- ⁴ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Henry Charles Edghill, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 783
- ⁵ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 16 March 2017) entry for Edghill, Ellen Louise, Volume 01B, Page 363
- ⁶ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 16 March 2017) entry for Edghill, Josiah William, Volume 01B, Page 348
- ⁷ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 16 March 2017) entry for Edghill, Annie Elizabeth, Volume 03A, Page 571
- ⁸ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 16 March 2017) entry for Edghill, James Alfred, Volume 03A, Page 627
- ⁹ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 16 March 2017) entry for Edghill, Alice Matilda, Volume 03A, Page 672; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2017), entry for Alice Matilda Edghill, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 130
- ¹⁰ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 16 March 2017) entry for Edghill, William Harold, Volume 01C, Page 41
- ¹¹ “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Henry Edghill
- ¹² Henry is recorded in the list of Irish casualties of the Great War—presumably because he served in this regiment. There is no other obvious connection to Ireland. (“Ireland, Casualties of World War I, 1914–1922,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Henry Edghill))
- ¹³ “The Prince of Wales’s Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians),” *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/the-prince-of-wales-leinster-regiment-royal-canadians/>: accessed 18 March 2017)
- ¹⁴ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Edgehill [Edghill], H.
- ¹⁵ “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Regiment or unit: Prince of Wales’s Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), Sub-unit: 2nd Battalion, Division: 29th Division, Diary dates: 1918 Feb - 1919 Jun, Piece description: Piece 2308/2: 2 Battalion Leinster Regiment (1918 Feb - 1919 Jun), Piece number: 2308
- ¹⁶ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Edgehill [Edghill], H.
- ¹⁷ “War Diaries – 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *Library and Archives Canada* (collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2005082: accessed 23 August 2016)
- ¹⁸ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 March 2017), entry for Henry C Edghill