

DENSLOW, Reginald William - died following action 1 September 1918

Reginald Denslow was not recorded on the list in Membury Village Hall, but he was born in Membury in 1893. Son of Malachi John Denslow (1863 Chardstock) and Emily Cousins (1860 Honiton)

This Denslow family lived in Membury between 1885 and 1896, six of their children being born here. In 1891, they lived at Sparkes Cottage, East Membury where Malachi worked as an agricultural labourer.

In 1901 the family has moved to Churchill, where Malachi was working as a carter on a farm and Reginald (7) had 10 siblings all at home, Charles (16), Lilian, Dora, Eva, Dennis, Harry, Margaret, Gilbert (2) and twins Phyllis and Blanche (6 months).

By 1911, Reginald was 17 and still living in Churchill, but boarding with John and Sarah Golding along with James Chubb, who also joined the army. Reginald was working at road mending.

In 1912 he married Edith Strawbridge, they had a son also called Reginald, in 1913, however he died about 6 months later. The following year they had another child – a daughter called Huldah, and twins called Edith and Reginald in 1916 who also died.

In 1917, Reginald enrolled in the Coldstream Guards Regiment No 20061 and served in France. He was wounded and later died on 1 September 1918, aged 25. He is buried at Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Traport, north-east of Dieppe. Le Treport was an important hospital centre in the war.

Hauldah was only 3 and a half when her father died, but she did survive and in 1939 married William Wedge in Launceston, Cornwall and went on to have 5 children, Rex, Rosemary, Crystal, Michael and William.

Edith remarried in 1930 at Beaminster to Frederick Linton, a Somerset man, He died in 1964 in Yeovil and Edith died 5 years later in Weymouth in 1969.

It is impossible to know why Reginald was not recorded on the Membury list when he had been born in Membury and only lived over the hill in Churchill. There were other Denslows in Membury and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website lists him as a native of Membury, Devon.