



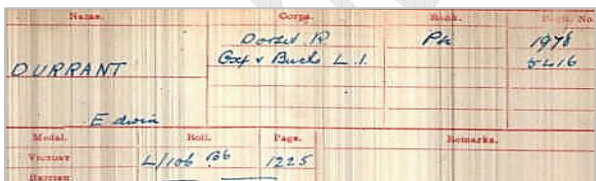



East Knoyle Roll of Honour  
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

			<p><b>EDWIN JAMES DURRANT</b></p> <p>of Stourton Caundle, Dorset</p>
Edwin James Durrant		Merville Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France	

Date/place of birth	1894 Stourton Caundle	2
Birth registered	March Q 1894 Sherborne Reg District 5a 335	5
Baptised		
Father	James Durrant of Stourton Caundle Dorset. Married June Q 1887 Sturminster Reg District 5a 457	5
Mother	Isabella (nee Williams) of Stourton Caundle Dorset	5
Siblings	Mary, Sidney, Alice, William, Louisa, Annie, Beatrice and Florence	2
1901 Census	Field Barn Cottage, Barford St Martin, Wilts. Age 5. Father's occupation Carter on farm	2
1911 Census	Shaftesbury Road East Knoyle. Age 16, occupation Farm Labourer	2

Rank	Private	3
Regiment	2/1 Bucks Battalion, Oxford & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry,	3
Enlisted	Shaftesbury	6
Service Number	5416 (formerly 1978 Dorset Regiment)	3
Medals	British War / Victory	4
Date of Death/Age	20 July 1916 age 22	3
Cause of Death	Died of wounds	3
Burial/Memorial	Merville Communal Cemetery, Merville, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Memorial Ref XI.A.37	3

 <p><i>Edwin Durrant originally served in the Dorset Regiment</i></p>		 <p>The 2/1 Buckinghamshire Battalion of the Oxford &amp; Buckinghamshire Light Infantry landed in France on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1916 as part of 61<sup>st</sup> Division. The first major action in which the Division was engaged was disastrous.</p>
	<p>The Battle of Fromelles July 1916</p> <p>Two divisions were fielded, the British 61<sup>st</sup> and the Australian 5<sup>th</sup>, both recently arrived in France and devoid of any combat experience. The battle, an attempt to stop the Germans moving troops away from this sector to the Battle of the Somme being fought fifty miles to the south, started at six o'clock in the afternoon of 19 July 1916. The infantry attack was immediately subjected to intense machine gun fire and shelling in a very wide section of no man's land.</p> <p>The four waves of infantry were mown down one after the other; no man's land filled with the bodies of the dead and wounded. Totally isolated after a night in the German trenches, the Australian survivors attempted to regain their lines on the morning of 20 July but the enemy's machine guns once again accomplished their deadly work. By 8am on 20 July 1916, the battle was over. The 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, rendering it incapable of offensive action for many months.</p> <p>Edwin James Durrant was one of 1,547 casualties suffered by the 61<sup>st</sup> Division.</p> <p>£9 War Gratuity paid to Isabella Durant (mother)</p> <p>Commemorated: War Memorial East Knoyle, Memorial Plaque St Mary's Church East Knoyle</p>	

© Jan Oliver 2012/Updated July 2015

1 = Parish Registers  
4 = Medal Index Card

2 = 1891/1901/1911 Census  
5 = GRO Register

3 = Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
6 = UK Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1918