

Harry Edmund Gover

Harry Edmund Gover was born and brought up in Nursling. In 1891, the infant Harry was living at Bargain Farm with his father Walter, (a farmer), his mother, Ada Mary and his younger brother, Walter Charles. (Walter senior had previously been a coachman for a church minister at The Beeches, Stoneham.) At Foxes Farm there were more Govers – Joseph and his wife Charlotte, with their children Alfred and Charlotte. I believe these were Harry's grandparents, aunt and uncle.

By 1911, Harry's family were living at Spencer's Farm, and he had another brother and two sisters: Charlotte, Reginald and Alice. By 1911, he had yet another pairs of siblings, Ada and Wilfred, and was working as a salesman of market garden produce. By the time of his death, Harry's parents were recorded as living in Shirley, while Harry's wife, Annie Rosina, was living at her family's home at Bridger's Farm, Mansell Road, Millbrook. Annie was herself a Gover, and appears to have been Harry's cousin.

He served with the Duke Of Cornwall's Light Infantry and the 1st Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment. "The Dorsets" were formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 39th Regiment of Foot (39th (Dorsetshire) Regiment) and the 54th Regiment of Foot (54th (West Norfolk) Regiment). The regiment disbanded in 1951.

Lance Corporal Gover married on March 17th 1917 and died only a few weeks later, on 6th April, aged 27. He has no known grave but is commemorated at Thiepval.

Ann Laird - Rownhams January 2015