

Edward Douglas Percy Featherstone

Private 513788, 1st/14th Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish)

Edward's father, Douglas Edward W Featherstone was born in Tonbridge, Kent and his mother Rose Elizabeth (née Barrett) in Camden Town, North London. They married at Camberwell, Surrey in 1884.

By the time of the 1891 Census, Douglas Featherstone, his wife and three daughters; Grace, and twins Lillian and Marjorie (who died in 1891), were living at 6, Firbank Road, Camberwell (in the District of Peckham). His employment was shown as "late clerk and traveller". **Edward Douglas Percy Featherstone** was born in Camberwell in the July-September quarter of 1898. However, he was not baptised until 16 June 1904, according to the Parish Register of St Barnabas in Dulwich, in the borough of Southwark.



The World War 1 Roll of Roll of Honour board in Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham. The sixth name down is that of E. D. P. Featherstone.

In the 1901 and 1911 Censuses, the Featherstone family lived in the High Street in Amersham.

According to the enumerator's schedule, the house was next door to the Swan Public House. However the number of houses in the row does not match the enumerator's notes and one house may have been made into two at some time.

Photograph taken March 2014

By the 1901 Census Douglas Edward and Rose had four children; Grace (13), Lillian (11), Gwendoline (9) and Edward Percy (2) and had moved out of London and were living in the High Street, Amersham. Douglas's employment is shown as a Builder's Manager and he had an assistant living with the family as a lodger. The family remained in the High Street, Amersham and by 1911 Douglas was an Estimator/Surveyor. Gwendoline (19) was employed as a governess but neither Grace nor Lillian was living with the family. Edward was the youngest of six children, two of whom died in infancy, and the only son. Edward's three older sisters, were all born in Peckham, London: Grace Elizabeth M (1887) Lillian Dorothy M. (1889) and Gwendoline May, (1892).

In 1911 Edward D. P. Featherstone (12) was attending school. His name appears on the WW1 Roll of Honour in Dr Challoner's Grammar School in Amersham. By this time the school had moved from its old site in the High Street, to its new site in Amersham-on-the-Hill.



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The Featherstone family continued to live in Amersham and, in 1912, Edward's sister Lillian Dorothy M Featherstone married Cyril Underwood Whitney in Amersham. Cyril was born in 1880 in Wandsworth and served in WW1 in the Royal Army Medical Corps, in Italy, as a lieutenant and later as captain. In 1919, again in Amersham, another sister, Grace Elizabeth M. Featherstone married Harry S. Wilson, and a daughter Pamela G. Wilson was born in 1919. No marriage for Gwendoline May has been confirmed.

Edward was only 16 years of age when war was declared in 1914. He enlisted in London (date unknown), into the 1/14th Battalion of the London Regiment (Scottish Regiment), nicknamed 'the Cockney Jocks'. The battalion formed in August 1914 at 59 Buckingham Gate. It was part of the 4th London Brigade and the 2nd London Division. The battalion moved on mobilization to Abbots Langley (Herts). Being a Scottish regiment, the uniform was the kilt, which was in Hodden grey serge, a Tam O'Shanter and long grey socks. For the trenches the men wore a light waterproof cape, and sheepskin gloves, which attracted the lice when damp. The history of the battalion can be followed in brief on the web-site "*The Long, Long Trail*", from which the author extracted information.

On 16 September 1914 the battalion left that Division and landed at Le Havre, coming under the command of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division on 7 November 1914. On 8 February 1915 the battalion was transferred to the 168th Brigade in the 59th London Division. They were involved in part of the **German Spring Offensive** which began on 21 March 1915 and **The Aisne Offensive** from 27 to 30 May and the **Battle of Messines (1917)**. Edward must have seen a great deal of fighting during his service before he was killed in action on 28 May 1918, aged just 19.

Edward Featherstone was awarded The British War Medal, 1914-18 and The Allied Victory Medal.



Photograph by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Edward Douglas Percy Featherstone is remembered with Honour in the Dainville British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France (grave ref. I.C.14)

The Dainville British Cemetery is on the western outskirts of Arras, on the road to Doullens. The cemetery was begun by the burial officer of the London Division in the middle of April 1918 and used until the Canadians took it over in July 1918. It contains 131 Empire burials from World War 1.

Edward's father, Douglas, died in 1930, aged 66, and his mother, Rose, in 1954 aged 85, both at Croydon, Surrey. As two of his sisters married in Amersham there is a possibility that relatives of Edward still live in the area.