

Private Edwin John Arnold[©]
Regimental number: 1901, 1746
60th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force

born: 1893–died: 1916

Edwin John Arnold was born on 3 July 1893, in Burnie, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia. He was the son of Edwin Isaac and Margaret (née O'Callaghan) Arnold.¹ He had a rough start to life, with his mother dying the same month he was born.² That left his father to look after Edwin John and two older sisters, Lillian Ann (b. 1890)³ and Mary Tasma (known as Tasma) (b. 1891)⁴, all under the age of 4.

Father Edwin Isaac was a shoemaker,⁵ and he too died young in 1908, "after a short and painful illness," at the age of 42.⁶ Edwin John was 15 at the time.

In 1915 Edwin John was living in South Melbourne with his sisters and their Aunt Louisa (Edwin Isaac's sister), a boarding house keeper.⁷ Edwin John was working as a storeman.

On 14 January 1915 Edwin John enlisted in the army.⁸ His service record indicates that his trade or calling was fitter mechanic, and that he had apprenticed for five years with his father. (Note that while most records list him as Edwin, a few list him as Edward, and he even signed his name as Edward. He was also known as Cliff.).

Edwin John started in the 8th Battalion, 5th Reinforcements, and on 17 April 1915 he embarked on HMAT A20 *Honorata* in Melbourne, and sailed to the Suez Canal, Egypt. He joined the 8th Battalion from the 5th Reinforcements on 17 July 1915, and in October he was on the Island of Lemnos where he was awarded 28 days Field Punishment (FP) No. 2 for being absent without leave for two days. (FP No. 2 involved being placed in fetters and handcuffs for up to two hours a day).⁹

In January 1916 the battalion moved back to Suez. Edwin was again punished for being absent without leave, this time for four days at Tel-el-Kebir; he received seven days of FP No. 2. On 2 February 1916 he was hospitalized with pneumonia and pleurisy and rejoined his battalion on 18 February. On 24 February he was transferred to the newly formed 60th Battalion, which was created half from Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion (including Edwin) and half from fresh reinforcements from Australia.¹⁰ However, on 1 March he was back in hospital.

He rejoined his unit on 28 March but was subsequently charged with breaking out of hospital on 21 March without discharge, and with being absent without leave from 21 to 24 March. The first charge was subsequently quashed, but he still received 90 days FP No. 2 for the second charge.

On 18 June 1916 the 60th Battalion embarked on HMS *Kinfauns Castle* to join the British Expeditionary Force in France and disembarked in Marseilles on 29 June. Three weeks later, with no chance of a soft introduction to trench warfare, the soldiers were thrown into the Battle of Fromelles.¹¹ This battle was a total disaster for the battalion, which was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties.

This included Private Edwin Arnold, who was wounded on 19 July, and succumbed to his injuries on 22 July at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in Bailleul. He was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Reference II. F. 45.¹² The inscription on his headstone reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY DEAR BROTHER
DIED OF WOUNDS
TO MEMORY EVER DEAR

The cemetery lies in the east end of the town of Bailleul, in the Nord department of the Hauts-de-France region; it contains the remains of 4344 soldiers from the two world wars.

Private Edwin Arnold received the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) for his service. He also received the 1914–15 Star, for service in any theatre of the war in 1914–15.

Edwin John's older sister Lillian Ann was living with her sister Tasma and her Aunt Louisa in South Melbourne in 1914.¹³ The following year she married William D'Arcy Broughall.¹⁴ He had been married before (in 1905) to Alice May Boreham, but he filed successfully for divorce in 1911 on the grounds of her misconduct with another man.¹⁵

A year after his marriage to Lillian Ann, William D'Arcy was hit with a lawsuit from another woman, Miss Edith Connor, for breach of promise of marriage.¹⁶ He contested the charge, but the jury found in her favour.

After their marriage, Lillian and William lived in Auburn, a suburb of Melbourne, until at least 1921.¹⁷ He is listed as a manager. They had a son, Eric William, in 1916.¹⁸ However, in 1924, Lillian Ann is living alone in South Yarra, another suburb of Melbourne,¹⁹ while William is travelling to England with another woman, Pattie, listed as a housewife.²⁰ He and Pattie (Patricia) were living together in Camperdown, Victoria until at least 1934.²¹ She is listed as Patricia Broughall, though no marriage record has been found. Then in 1938, he married another woman, Marguerite (Rita) Mary Phelan.²²

Meanwhile, in 1931 Lillian is living in Mornington, Victoria, listed as "matron."²³ She does not appear to have remarried, as she died in 1977 as Lillian Broughall.²⁴

Her son, Eric William, had his own problems with marriage. He married Margaret Stirling Halford in 1945,²⁵ but within a year he had taken up with another woman, Kathleen Margaret Weyland, a war widow with two small boys, while working in Canberra as a journalist (his wife was in Melbourne).²⁶ Mrs. Weyland moved to Perth in Western Australia to break with Eric, but he followed and moved into her house. One night he got drunk, drinking till midnight with three other men, and he and Kathleen got into an argument. He threw various objects at her, including a small table, and tried to drag her to the bedroom. Fearing for her safety and that of her children, she threw a jungle knife machete at him, inflicting a serious cut on his leg. He required surgery, and she was charged with unlawfully wounding him. However, a jury found her not guilty.

Eric and his wife did get back together again, at least temporarily,²⁷ but ten years later he was living with another woman.²⁸ Eric died in 1997.²⁹

Edwin John's other sister, Tasma, did not marry. From 1914 to 1922, living with her Aunt Louisa, she is listed as a saleswoman,³⁰³¹ but from 1925 onwards her occupation on the electoral rolls is cited as "Home Duties".³² She died, age 60, in 1951.³³

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- ¹ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Edwin Arnold
- ² "Family Notices," *The Age* (Melbourne, Vic: 1854–1954) 29 Jul 1893, Page 12, *Trove* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/193425750?searchTerm=mrs%20edwin%20arnold> : accessed 3 December 2024), search for Mrs Edwin Arnold
- ³ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Lillian Ann Arnold
- ⁴ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Mary Tasma Arnold
- ⁵ "Australia, City Directories and Almanacs, 1845–1948," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Edwin Arnold, 1892
- ⁶ "Australia, Newspaper Vital Notices, 1831–2001," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Edwin Arnold
- ⁷ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Edwin John Arnold, 1915
- ⁸ "Australia, WW1 Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Edwin John Arnold, service number 1901. Unless otherwise specified, all information about his military service comes from this source. Note also that while most records give his service number as 1901, he also was given the number 1746, which is the one in the CCCS chaplains' journal.
- ⁹ "Field Punishment," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_punishment#:~:text=It%20was%20a%20common%20punishment,One%2C%20often%20abbreviated%20to%20%22F.P.: accessed 3 December 2024), search for Field Punishment
- ¹⁰ "60th Australian Infantry Battalion," *Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51500>: accessed 3 December 2024), search for 60th Battalion AIF
- ¹¹ Ditto
- ¹² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Edwin Arnold, Service No: 1901
- ¹³ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Lillian Arnold, 1914
- ¹⁴ "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for Lillian Arnold
- ¹⁵ "Victoria, Australia, Divorce Records, 1860–1940," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for William D'Arcy Broughall
- ¹⁶ "Sequel to Breach of Promise Case," *Daily Post* (Hobart), 2 June 1917, page 8, *Trove* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/191184566?searchTerm=william%20d%27arcy%20broughall>: accessed 4 December 2024), search for William D'Arcy Broughall
- ¹⁷ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Lillian Broughall, 1921
- ¹⁸ "Victoria, Australia, Birth Index, 1837–1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for Lilian [*sic*] Broughall
- ¹⁹ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Lillian Broughall, 1924
- ²⁰ "UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for William Broughall

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- ²¹ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Patricia Broughall, 1934
- ²² "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for William Broughall, 1938
- ²³ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Lilian [sic] Broughall, 1931
- ²⁴ "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for Lilian [sic] Broughall
- ²⁵ "Victoria, Australia, Marriage Index, 1837–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for Eric Wm Broughall
- ²⁶ "Terrified, She threw knife at him in self-defence, woman says," *The Daily News* (Perth), Page 2, *Trove* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85643156?searchTerm=eric%20william%20broughall>: accessed 5 December 2024), search for Eric William Broughall
- ²⁷ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Eric William Broughall, 1958
- ²⁸ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Eric William Broughall, 1968
- ²⁹ "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for Eric W Broughall
- ³⁰ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Tasma Arnold, 1914
- ³¹ "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Tasma Mary Arnold, 1922
- ³² "Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903–1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 December 2024), entry for Tasma Mary Arnold, 1925
- ³³ "Victoria, Australia, Death Index, 1840–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 4 December 2024), entry for Tasma Mary Arnold