

## The Eglen Family of East Dereham

John William Eglen was born early in 1861 & baptised on 24<sup>th</sup> April that year at Honingham in Norfolk, the son of Robert Eglen, a journeyman carpenter, & his wife Elizabeth (Forster), who were married the previous year in East Dereham. Elizabeth, residing in Wymondham, was already working at 12 years of age as a bobbin filler whilst her father Isaac & brother Isaac were weavers in silk & worsted.

In the latter part of 1889 John married Elizabeth Skipper who was born at East Dereham, the daughter of Emily Skipper (with no father traced so perhaps she was illegitimate.)

At 9 years of age, in 1871, Elizabeth was residing with her grandparents, Samuel Adcock, an ostler, & his wife

Elizabeth, at No. 72 Baxter Row, East Dereham. (Samuel had married Elizabeth at St. Nicholas Church in Dereham on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1854.) Ten years later, in 1881, Elizabeth Skipper is residing at Elvin Road, East Dereham, as a servant to widow Elizabeth Hunter whilst John Eglen is still at home with his parents & siblings at Margetts Cottages, London Road, East Dereham. John is now a 20 year old general labourer.



On 10<sup>th</sup> July 1889, the same year as John married, his brother Richard, a hairdresser, married Eliza Graves at East Dereham. Witnesses were Sophia Eglen (John & Richard's sister) who married the other witness Robert Howling in 1891. In the same year, now married, John & Elizabeth are also residing at Baxter Row, East Dereham, with their 4 months old son Henry John Eglen. Also living with them is Samuel Adcock, now a 71 year old widower. John is employed as an ironmonger's porter at Utting & Buckingham's in the Market Place in East Dereham.

The couple had seven children in total which included four sons & three daughters:- Henry ("Harry") John born in November 1890, Violet ("Vi") Mary born in January 1892, Herbert ("Bertie") William born in August 1893, Sidney Frederick born in October 1895, Percival ("Percy") Robert born in August 1897, Alma Elizabeth born in April 1899 & finally Agnes May ("May") born in 1901 (my mother). The children were all baptised at Dereham St. Nicholas Church.



Alma, Parents, May, Vi & her daughter Peggy

The family were still residing at No. 53 Baxter Row on census night in 1901 just before daughter Agnes May was born but they later moved to No. 27 King's Road, East Dereham, which was a tiny end of terrace house with an equally tiny garden on the junction with Neatherd Road. The address was later changed to No. 27 Wellington Road where daughter Alma Elizabeth, who remained a spinster, resided for the rest of her life. How did the large family manage to live & sleep in such a small two-bedroomed dwelling? Well, they slept head-to-toe in the beds of course!

Henry ("Harry") John was lodging & working in Belfast as a (steam) fitter in May 1917 when he joined the army there being appointed to the M.T. (Motor Transport) Section of the Army Service Corps; he had previously completed service in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Norfolk Regiment (Territorials) being discharged in 1912. He wrote a daily diary of his travels & service in the army commencing with his departure from Avonmouth, near Bristol, to Southampton en route for France, then through Italy to the Middle East where he remained until after the end of the First World War. In the summer of 1923 Harry married Lillian Margaret Barlow in the Dudley area of Staffordshire; she had been employed during the war at Hobbies Ltd., of East Dereham, where munitions were produced/assembled. The couple

later went to live in Hertfordshire where Harry was employed by Heinz Foods.



*Three Eglens, Henry ("Harry"), Agnes May ("May" Wade) & Alma Elizabeth at St. Nicholas Church, Dereham, on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1956 for the wedding of May's eldest daughter Margaret with John & Shirley Wade also present*

Violet("Vi") Mary Eglen, John & Elizabeth's first daughter, married Arthur Robinson who was employed as a lorry driver also for Hobbies Ltd., at Station Road, East Dereham. The couple had a daughter Peggy. Following a bicycling accident Vi developed cancer & died; she is buried in a grave beside her parents & sister Alma at East Dereham Cemetery. Arthur later remarried; he & his new wife Dorothy resided at Swanton Avenue, East Dereham.

*John William Eglen at No. 27 King's Road. East Dereham*





*Sidney Frederick Eglen at No. 27 King's Road, East Dereham with parents John & Elizabeth*

Sidney Frederick Eglen was a stores keeper (probably at Hobbies Ltd.) residing

*Sidney with wife Evelyn (Allen), John Wade, family friend Mrs. Mendham of Swanton Morley, Eric & May Wade*



*Sidney Frederick Eglen at Station Road, Dereham, with "Hobbies Ltd." lorry on the occasion of the local carnival - late 1940's/early 1950's?*

with the Eglen family at No. 27 Wellington Road, East Dereham, when he applied to join the Army Service Corps but was appointed to the Norfolk Regiment. Part of his service was spent in Sri Lanka (Ceylon then). He was awarded the British War & Victory medals. He later married Evelyn Allen & the couple resided at "Ash Villa", Swanton Road, East Dereham, when Sidney was employed at Hobbies Ltd. where he became chief clerk at the company.

Percival ("Percy") Robert Eglen, although residing in London at the time, joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps. at East Dereham, as Rifleman No. 26795. He too was killed in France & Flanders as Rifleman No. S/30434 in the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own) on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1917, aged only 20 years, shortly after a spell at home. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial near Ypres in Belgium.





Alma Elizabeth Eglen did not marry & continued to live in the Eglen family home at 27 Wellington Road/ King's Road in East Dereham. She was employed at Kingston & Hurn's, "High Class Grocers" at High Street/Norwich Street, East Dereham, where she worked in the section in Norwich Street where large green coffee/tea containers stood above the

counter. Just before Christmas each year she took over the brush shop, situated at the Market Place end of the premises in High Street, where staging was erected in a semi-circle in the shop which she decorated with a wonderful display of Christmas crackers. She is buried with her parents at Dereham Cemetery.

*Frederick ("Eric") Charles Raby Wade & Agnes May ("May") Wade (nee Eglen) at 27 Wellington Road, Dereham, on their wedding day on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1927*



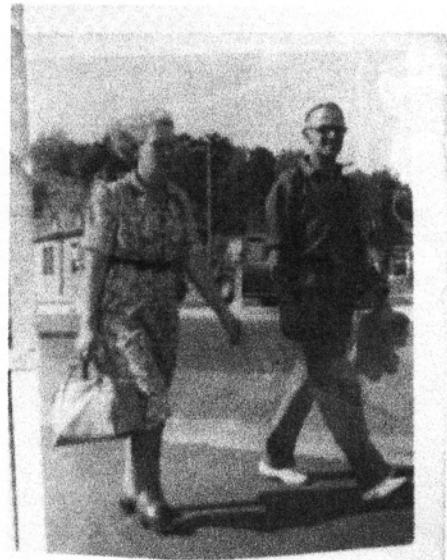
*Eric (on left) outside The India & China Tea Co. shop in Fakenham*

Agnes May ("May") Eglen married Frederick ("Eric") Charles Raby Wade at East Dereham in 1927; they went to live in Fakenham where Eric obtained employment in a grocery store in the town & where three of their four children were born. In 1941 the family moved back to East Dereham residing at No. 14 Theatre Street when Eric obtained employment as a grocery roundsman, also at Kingston & Hurn's; he served nearby villages including Wendling, Hockering & Honingham. He said he found it difficult during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War driving at night with partially covered vehicle headlamps; he had been excused war service on the application of Mr. Hurn, his employer, as being in an essential service. May also worked one time at Kingston & Hurn's, a family trait!

Eric's family had been farmers at Scarning, near East Dereham, & they also ran a butcher's shop in Quebec Street, East Dereham, of which there is a photograph in the book, "The Story Of East Dereham" by Ben Norton. Eric & May were both cremated at St. Faiths Crematorium near Norwich.



Harry (under cross) with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment (Territorials) in camp. Postcard dated 1912 Lowestoft



Lil & Harry Eglen

MAILLEY. MAILLEY. 5/8/1918.



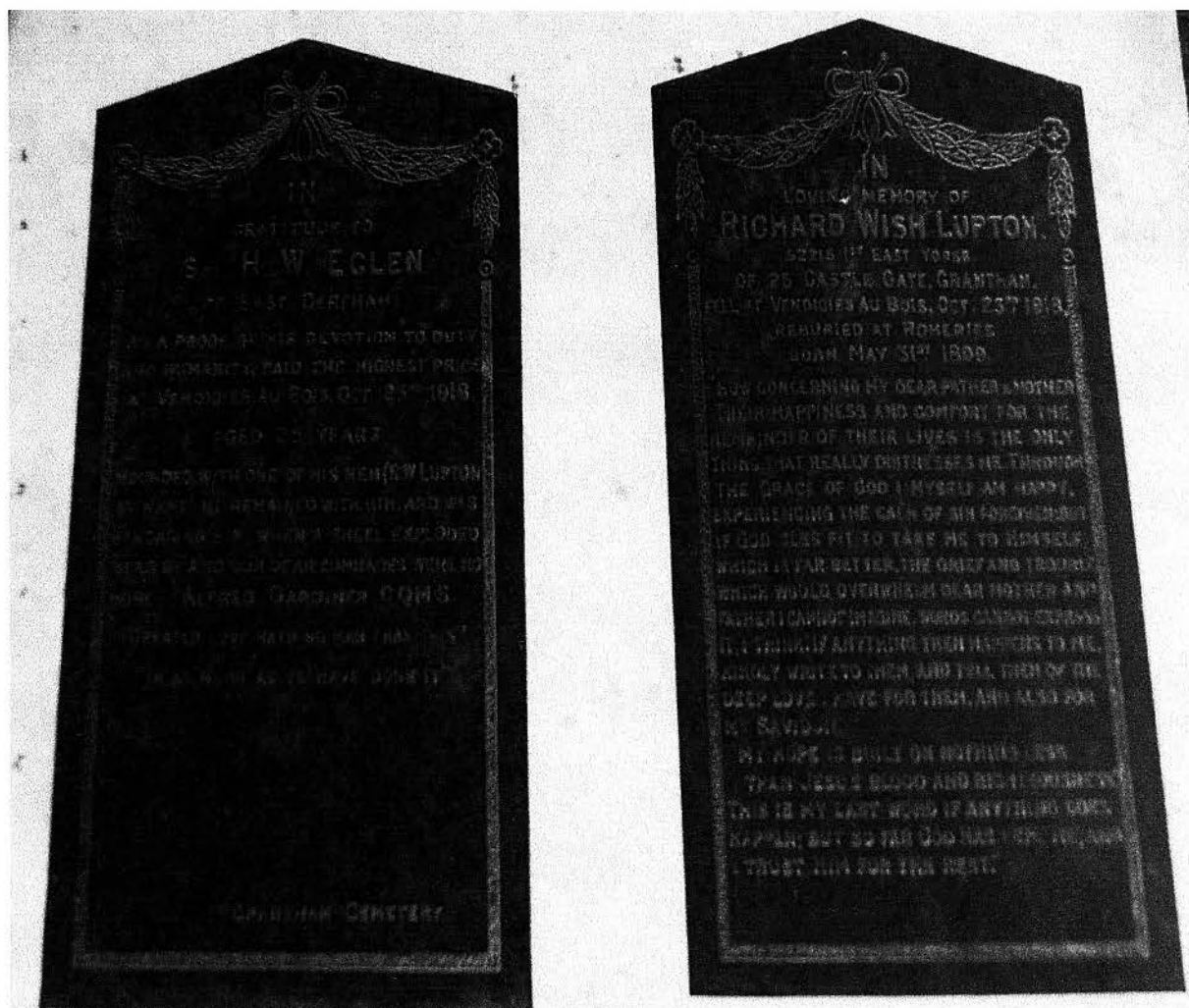
B. E.  
1918 August.



Drawn by Bertie (opposite) in Alma's autograph book two months before he was killed

In the year before World War I was declared John's mother Elizabeth died &, in the following year father Robert died, both being buried in the same grave at Dereham Cemetery.

Herbert ("Bertie") Eglen married Gladys Marion Holliday of East Dereham in 1917 & a daughter of the same name was born towards the end of that year. He joined the army during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War & was a member of the Northumberland Fusiliers becoming an acting-sergeant No. 235474 but then transferred to B Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment as Sergeant 50876. At 23 years of age he was killed whilst serving in France & Flanders on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918, near the end of the war in Europe, & buried in the Romeries Communal Cemetery in Northern France. He was shown as Acting Sergeant Major on the Dereham Roll Of Honour. Bertie, although wounded himself, returned to tend to one of his injured men, Richard Wish Lupton but, whilst doing so, both were killed by a shell which exploded close by. In appreciation a memorial was erected at Grantham Cemetery beside that of Mr. Lupton. Bertie's widow, Gladys remarried four years later.



The Eglen Brothers - W.W.I

<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Mattishall All Saints</u>	<u>File 8601</u>	<u>Freereg</u>
1811	Elizabeth Skipper, dau. of Stephen Skipper & Ann Walpole		
<u>Census 1841</u>	<u>Mattishall</u>	<u>HO107/780</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
Badl(e)y Moor	Ruth Holmes, 45, Shopkeeper, Norfolk William Holmes, 13, Norfolk John Holmes, 10, Norfolk Henry Freson, 20, Ag. lab., Norfolk William Clerk, 20, Carpenter, Norfolk Timothy Evans, 45, Ag. Lab., Norfolk <u>Elizabeth Skipper</u> , 25, Female Servant, Norfolk Elizabeth Laing, 15, Female Servant, Scotland		
<u>Birth</u>	<u>Mitford District</u>		<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
Mar. 1841	Emily Skipper - 13/232		
<u>Census 1841</u>	<u>Wymondham</u>	<u>HO107/767</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
Lizard	Isaac Forster, 45, Weaver - Silk & Worsted,, Norfolk Sophia Forster, 40, Norfolk Isaac Forster, 20, Weaver - Silk & Worsted, Norfolk James Forster, 13, Norfolk Martha Forster, 10, Norfolk Sarah Forster, 6, Norfolk Maria Forster, 4, Norfolk <u>Elizabeth Forster</u> , 2, Norfolk		
<u>Census 1851</u>	<u>Wymondham</u>	<u>HO107/1817</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
Lizard	Isaac Forster, H'd., Marr., 55, Hand Loom Weaver Silk, Wymondham Sophia Forster, Wife, Marr., 50, Wymondham Sarah Forster, Dau., 16, Hand Loom Weaver Silk, Wymondham <u>Elizabeth Forster</u> , Dau., 12, Bobbin Filler, Wymondham Susannah Forster, Dau., 10, Scholar, Wymondham William Forster, Son, 7, Scholar, Wymondham		
<u>Census 1851</u>	<u>East Dereham</u>	<u>HO107/1825</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
10. Banyards Yard Theatre Street	Elizabeth Skipper, Head, Unm., 37, Housemaid, Mattishall Emily Skipper, Dau., 11, Mattishall Elizabeth Skipper, Dau., 3, Mattishall Mary Cobb, Lodger, Widow, 84, Holton		

<u>Census 1881</u>	<u>East Dereham</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
Margetts Cotts. London Road	Robert Eglen, Head, Marr., 48, Journeyman Carpenter, E. Dereham Elizabeth Eglen, Wife, Marr., 42, Wymondham <u>John Eglen</u> , 20, (b.c. 1861), Gen. Lab., Honingham Richard Eglen, Son, 15, Errand Boy, Honingham Herbert Eglen, Son, 7, Scholar, Honingham Frederick Eglen, Son, 4, E. Dereham	

<u>Marriage</u>	<u>East Dereham</u>	<u>M/F. 703</u>	<u>N.R.O.</u>
10.07.1889	Richard Eglen, 24 yrs., bachelor, hairdresser, E. Dereham, & Eliza Graves, 25 yrs., spinster, E. Dereham, by banns. Fathers: Robert Eglen, carpenter, & Robert Graves, labourer. Witnesses: Robert Howling & Sophia Eglen ( Richard's sister & later wife of Robert Howling)		

<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Mitford District</u>	<u>Marriage Certificate</u>
17.10.1889	John William Eglen & Elizabeth Skipper. Witnesses: Robert Howling, Sophia Eglen & Ellen Miles	

<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Mitford District</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
Dec. 1889	John William Eglen & Elizabeth Skipper - 4b/715	

<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Mitford District</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
Mar. 1891	Sophia Eglen & Robert Howling - 4b/418	

<u>Census 1891</u>	<u>East Dereham</u>	<u>RG12/1554</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
21 Georges Yard Off Norwich Street	Robert Howling, Head, Marr., 27, Gen. Labourer, Brisley Sophia Howling, Wife, Marr., 28, Honingham		

<u>Census 1891</u>	<u>East Dereham</u>	<u>RG12/1554</u>	<u>Anc.co.uk</u>
41. 53 Baxter Row	John W. Eglen, H'd., Marr., 30, Ironmonger's Porter, Honingham Elizabeth Eglen, Wife, Marr., 28, East Dereham - formerly Skipper Henry J. Eglen, Son, 4 mos., East Dereham Samuel Adcock, Lodger, Widower, 71, Labourer, Watton (Elizabeth's mother Emily Skipper's step-father!)		



BirthMitford DistrictAnc.co.uk

Mar. 1891 Henry John Eglen - 4b/277 - born 24.11.1890  
 Mar. 1892 Violet Mary Eglen - 4b/273 - born 24.01.1892 (died 31.05.1939)  
 Sep. 1893 Herbert William Eglen - 4b/278 - born 02.08.1893 (died 23.10.191)  
 Dec. 1895 Sidney Frederick Eglen - 4b/265 - born 24.10.1895 (died 11.01.1978)  
 Sep. 1897 Percival Robert Eglen - 4b/ - born 08.08.1897 (died 13.12.1917)  
 Sep. 1899 Alma Elizabeth Eglen - 4b/273 - born 16/18.04.1899 (died 19.06.1980)  
 Jun. 1901 Agnes May Eglen - 4b/ - born 03.05.1901 (died 02?07.1977)

BaptismsDereham St. NicholasNorfolk Heritage Centre - Parish Reg. Transcript

05.07.1891 Henry John son of John William & Elizabeth Eglen, 53 Baxter Row, Dereham  
 (Born 24.11.1890) Ironmonger's  
 Porter 29.07.1892 Violet Mary dau. of John William & Elizabeth Eglen, Dereham, Porter  
 25.08.1893 Herbert William son of John William & Elizabeth Eglen, Dereham, Light  
 (Born 08.1893) Porter  
 29.04.1896 Sidney Frederick son of John William & Elizabeth Eglen, Baxter Row, Light  
 (Born 24.10.1895) Porter  
 19.05.1899 Alma Elizabeth dau. of John William & Elizabeth Eglen, Dereham, Porter  
 (Born 16.04.1899)  
 31.05.1901 Agnes May dau. of John William & Elizabeth Eglen

Census 1901East DerehamRG13/1872Anc.co.uk

177. 53 Baxter Row. John W. Eglen, H'd., Marr., 40, Ironmonger's Porter, Honingham  
 Elizabeth Eglen, Wife, Marr., 38, Dereham  
 Henry J. Eglen, Son, 10, Dereham  
 Violet M. Eglen, Dau., 9, Dereham  
 Herbert W. Eglen, Son, 7, Dereham  
 Sydney F. Eglen, Son, 5, Dereham  
 Percival R. Eglen, Son, 3, Dereham  
 Alma E. Eglen, Dau., 2, Dereham

Census 1901East DerehamRG13/1872Anc.co.uk

72 Norwich Road Abram Holliday, H'd., Marr., 34, Dealer/Beerhousekeeper, Scarning  
 Mary Holliday, Wife, Marr., 30, E. Dereham  
 Clifford Holliday, Son, 8, E. Dereham  
Gladys Holliday, Dau., 6, East Dereham  
 Reginald Holliday, Son, 2, E. Dereham

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 Herbert W. Eglen, Son, 7, Dereham  
 Sydney F. Eglen, Son, 5, Dereham  
 Percival R. Eglen, Son, 3, Dereham  
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 Clifford Holliday, Son, 8, E. Dereham  
Gladys Holliday, Dau., 6, East Dereham  
 Reginald Holliday, Son, 2, E. Dereham



Census 1911

East Dereham

Findmypast.com

27 Kings Road

John W. Eglen, H'd., Marr., 50, Ironmonger's Porter, Honingham  
Elizabeth Eglen, Wife, Marr., 48, E. Dereham  
Henry J. Eglen, Son, Single, 20, Hot Water & Gas Fitter Apprentice,  
E. Dereham  
Herbert W. Eglen, Son, Single, 17, Brewer's Clerk, E. Dereham  
Sidney F. Eglen, Son, Single, 15, Office Boy Engineer, E. Dereham  
Percival R. Eglen, Son, 13, School, E. Dereham  
Alma E. Eglen, Daughter, School, E. Dereham  
Agnes M. Eglen, Daughter, 9, School, E. Dereham

Burials

East Dereham Cemetery

Surname Index 1869-1921

N.F.H.S.

Ref. No. 1394U 11.01.1913 Eglen, Elizabeth, 73 yrs. Grave No. 132G /Plot 11  
Ref. No. 1417U 21.05.1914 Eglen, Robert, 74 yrs. Grave No./Plot - as above

Marriage

Mitford District

Anc.co.uk

Sep. 1917 Herbert W. Eglen & Gladys Marion Holliday - b.c. Jun.1895 Mitford D.

Birth

Mitford District

Anc.co.uk

Dec. 1917 Gladys M. Eglen

U.K. Soldiers Died in The Great War, 1914 - 1918

Anc.co.uk

Herbert William Eglen, bn. Dereham, residence Attleborough, enlisted East Dereham, died  
23.10.1918 France & Flanders, A/Sgt., East Yorkshire Reg't., 1<sup>st</sup>  
Battalion. No. 50876. Killed in Action. Theatre of War Aldershot.  
Formerly 266477 Norfolk Reg't.

(No trace C.W.G.C. site - but see letter dated 17.06.1999 from C.W.G.C.)

Percy William Eglen, bn. Dereham, residence London, enlisted East Dereham died  
13.12.1917 France & Flanders. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade (The Prince  
Consort's Own), 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, No. S/30434. Killed in Action. Theatre  
of War Aldershot. Formerly R/26795 K.R.R.C.

Son of John William & Elizabeth Eglen, of 27 Wellington Road, East Dereham;  
commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.  
(Copy of commemoration certificate enclosed)

Census 1911

East Dereham

Findmypast.com

27 Kings Road

John W. Eglen, H'd., Marr., 50, Ironmonger's Porter, Honingham  
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Son of John William & Elizabeth Eglen, of 27 Wellington Road, East Dereham;  
commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.  
(Copy of commemoration certificate enclosed)

## Medals

British War Medal - S-30434 Pte. P.R. Eglin Rif. Brig.

In possession of John Wade who also holds the following medals:-

British War & Victory medals - M-321013 Cpl. H. Eglen A.S.C.

26831 Pte. S.F. Eglen Norf.R. (Copy Medal Card enclosed)

British War & Victory medals were also awarded to Herbert W. Eglen as 235474 A/Sgt., Northumberland Fusiliers & 50876 East Yorks Regiment (Copy Medal Card enclosed)

## Short Service Attestation

Henry Eglen of East Dereham, residence 11 Madrid Street, Belfast, 26 yrs. 6 mths., fitter, previous service in 5<sup>th</sup> battalion, Norfolk Reg't. (Territorial), discharged 1912. Appointed to Army Service Corps (M.T. Section) 12.05.1917

Sidney Frederick Eglen of 27 Wellington Road, East Dereham, 20 yrs., 11 mths., stores keeper, Appointed 19.10.1916 to Norfolk Regiment

(Copies enclosed)

Henry ("Harry") Eglen wrote a diary from 03.07.1917 to May 1919 detailing his route from Avonmouth to Southampton en route to France & on through Italy to Egypt, sailing via the Red Sea & Arabian Sea to what is now named Basra in Iraq then on to Baghdad. He remained in the Middle East for the remainder of his service. He noted the sad notification of the deaths of his brothers Herbert ("Bertie") & Percy.

(Original held by John Wade's brother - copy with John Wade)

## Marriage

[Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk)

Sep. 1922 Gladys M. Eglen - Mitford/4b/568 - spouse Beales

Sep. 1923 Henry J. Eglen - Dudley/Staffs./ Worcs./6b/2045 - Lillian M.M. Barlow - b.c.  
Mar. 1891 Dudley D.