

**LANCE CORPORAL EDRIC NOEL HINDMARSH**  
 14937, 8th Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry  
 Died aged 23 on 23 December 1918  
 Buried with honour in *Dedeagatch British Cemetery, Greece*; 54  
 Commemorated in Tewkesbury on the Grammar School Memorial



*Dedeagatch British Cemetery, Greece*



*1914-15 Star Medal*



*Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry*

**EDRIC NOEL HINDMARSH** was born in 1895 in Bredon to Luke Hindmarsh and Annie (formerly Bates), both from Northumberland and married in Hexham in 1879. Luke was a School Teacher and settled in Bredon for 23 years as Headmaster. There were seven children: two born in Dorset, one in Shropshire, and four in Bredon. Many of them had North Country names of Saxon origin, for example Edrich means 'rich and powerful'. Luke died in 1907 and, by 1911, Edric was living with his mother in Kemerton where she was employed as a 'Lady's Governess'. Between 1908 and 1910, Edric was a pupil at the new Tewkesbury Grammar School which opened in 1906 in Church Street. After an Act passed in 1907, there were free scholarships for able children from poor backgrounds. Edric was described in his obituary in the *Cheltenham Chronicle* as an 'all round athlete and captain of cricket and football teams'.

Edric enlisted in the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1914 and was posted to the 8th (Service) Battalion (Pioneers), which had been formed at Oxford in October 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army and became the Pioneer Battalion to the 26th Division. Edric landed at Le Havre on 18 September 1915 and consequently was awarded the '1914-15 Star' medal. The Division remained in France until November without partaking in any major actions. On 17 November the battalion arrived at Marseilles and embarked on *HMT Alaunia* bound for Salonika where they arrived on 24 November 1915. The Division was engaged in various actions against the Bulgarian Army, including the *Battle of Horseshoe Hill* in 1916,

the *Battles of Doiran* in 1917 and 1918 and the *Pursuit to the Strumica Valley* in September 1918. His obituary reported that he 'endured considerable hardships in the retirement to Salonika'. In 1916 he was evacuated to Malta to be treated for malaria. The Division ended the war near Strumica, Macedonia, when the Bulgarians signed an Armistice with the Allies on 30 September 1918, and was then employed for a brief time on occupation duties in Bulgaria.

**Lance Corporal Edric Noel Hindmarsh** died on 23 December 1918 and was buried in *Dedeagatch British Cemetery*. Little information was provided in the local press except a report on 4 January 1919 that he had died in Turkey of pneumonia; the school recorded that he had died in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Both these reports are inaccurate. The 8th Ox & Bucks did not serve in Mesopotamia so the reference in the school record is incorrect.

The confusion is probably due to changes in territorial ownership. Until 1913 the area was part of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey); after the *Second Balkan War* in 1913 the area became part of Bulgaria; and in 1919, following Bulgaria's defeat, the area was ceded to Greece. The town of Dedeagatch was subsequently renamed Alexandroupolis (after the Greek King), although the cemetery kept the original name.

The area was occupied by Commonwealth forces in October 1918 and No.31 Casualty Clearing Station was posted in the town until December. Edric is said to have died 'in service', probably while on occupation duties. He fell ill from pneumonia, and would have been treated in the nearby CCS.