

HERBERT GEORGE MINDHAM

Born: 1898, Sharrington¹

Enlisted: 31st May 1915: Machine Gun Corps (Private 28484)²



Medals: British War Medal; Victory Medal; Silver War Badge³



Herbert George Mindham was born in 1898 and baptised on the 10th April 1898, in Sharrington parish church, the oldest child of Herbert John and Lydia Florence Mindham (see Figure 1).

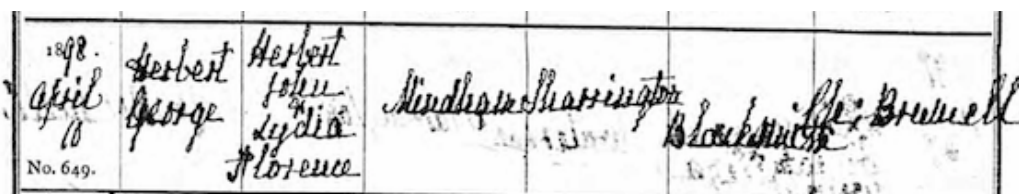


Figure 1: Extract from the Sharrington Baptisms, 1898

Herbert's father, Herbert John was born in 1876 and baptised on the 10th September 1876 in Sharrington parish church, the son of Mary Ann Mindham.⁴ He married Lydia Florence Doughty on the 18th November 1897 in Sharrington parish church.⁵ Lydia was born on the 3rd March 1878, and baptised on the 28th April 1878, in Saxlingham by Holt parish church, the

¹ FreeBMD, Quarter to March 1898, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.300 (www.freebmd.org.uk); Baptism Register, 1898, Sharrington (www.ancestry.co.uk); 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 200) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

² British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk); UK, Silver War Badge Records, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴ FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1876, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.281 (www.freebmd.org.uk); Baptism Register, 1876, Sharrington (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁵ FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1897, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.819 (www.freebmd.org.uk); Marriage Register, Sharrington, 1897 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

daughter of George and Mahala Doughty.⁶ Herbert John died in Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, on the 15th November 1943, aged 67.⁷ Lydia died in 1971, aged 93.⁸

In the 1901 census, Herbert's father is aged 24, a blacksmith, and is living in Bull Yard, Lynn Street, Swaffham, with his wife, Lydia and their young son, Henry Thomas (aged 1). At this time their son Herbert is recorded as living with his grandparents, George Henry and Mahala Doughty, and their son Augustus Elmer Doughty (aged 16) in Sharrington.⁹

Similarly, in 1911, Herbert (aged 13) is recorded as living with his grandparents and their son in Wood Norton.¹⁰ Herbert's father (then aged 34, and still a blacksmith) is living in Crab Marsh, Old Walsoken, with his wife Lydia (aged 33) and four children. The census records that they had six children, one of whom had died.¹¹ Herbert George's siblings listed in the 1911 census are:

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| Henry Thomas | Born 5 th January 1900, baptised 13 th May 1900, Sharrington. ¹² In the 1911 census, Henry is aged 11 and at school. ¹³ Henry had joined the Royal Navy on the 30 th July 1915, as Boy 2 nd Class, becoming an Able Seaman in July 1918; he continued to serve in the Royal Navy until February 1940, when he was invalided out. ¹⁴ He married Enid Irene Anthony in 1928; she died in 1955, aged 52. ¹⁵ Henry died in 1956, aged 56. ¹⁶ |
| May Florence | Born 1902, Swaffham. ¹⁷ In the 1911 census, she is aged 8, and at school. May married Stanley Plater in 1925, and died in 1950, aged 48. ¹⁸ |
| Arthur James | Born 19 th April 1907, Walsoken. ¹⁹ He married Margery Joyce Lincoln in 1937; she died in 1984, aged 70. ²⁰ Arthur died in 1969, aged 62. ²¹ |
| Margery Mahala | Born 1910, baptised 3 rd July 1910, Walpole St Peter. ²² |

⁶ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1878, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.303* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Baptism Register, 1878, Saxlingham by Holt (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD Death record gives the date of birth.

⁷ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1943, King's.L, Vol.4b, p.382* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1963-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1971, Wisbech, Vol.4a, p.1025* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁹ 1901 census, Sharrington (Page 2) (www.ancestry.co.uk);

¹⁰ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 200) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹¹ 1911 census, Walsoken (Schedule 113) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹² Baptism Register, Sharrington, 1900 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1900, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.302* (www.freebmd.org.uk); UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹³ 1911 census, Walsoken (Schedule 113) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁴ UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁵ FreeBMD, Birth, *Quarter to September 1928, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.641* (www.freebmd.org.uk), FreeBMD, Death, *Quarter to September 1955, Fakenham, Vol.4b, p.307* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁶ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1956, Acle, Vol.4b, p.366* (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁷ 1911 census, Walsoken (Schedule 113) (www.ancestry.co.uk). Probably recorded as May Florence *Mendham* rather than *Mindham*, FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1902, Swaffham Vol.4b, p.343* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1925, Holbeach, Vol.7a, p.586* (www.ancestry.co.uk)

¹⁹ 1911 census, Walsoken (Schedule 113) (www.ancestry.co.uk). Probably recorded as Arthur James *Mendham* rather than *Mindham*, FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1907, Wisbech, Vol.3b, p.539* (www.freebmd.org.uk). The FreeBMD Death record gives the date of birth.

²⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1937, Biggleswade, Vol.3b, p.1055* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, *Biggleswade, Vol.9, p.225* (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²¹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1969, Biggleswade, Vol.4a, p.205* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²² Bishops Transcripts, Baptism Register, Walpole St Peter, 1910 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1910, Wisbech, Vol.3b, p.531* (www.freebmd.org.uk). The surname is recorded as *Mendham* rather than *Mindham*.

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| | She married Gordon Jewell in 1950; she died in 1996, aged 86. ²³ |
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Whilst the British Army Service Records do not appear to have survived for Herbert, the Medal Roll Index Cards have survived, and there is one record for Herbert George Mindham, which notes that he was with the Machine Gun Corps (*see Figure 2*). He was awarded the Silver War badge in February 1919, having been discharged from the service due to sickness on the 8th July 1918, under Paragraph 392 xvi of the King's Regulations – *No longer physically fit for war service*.²⁴ His Silver War Badge medal roll records that he enlisted on the 31st May 1915, and saw service overseas, which made him eligible for the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

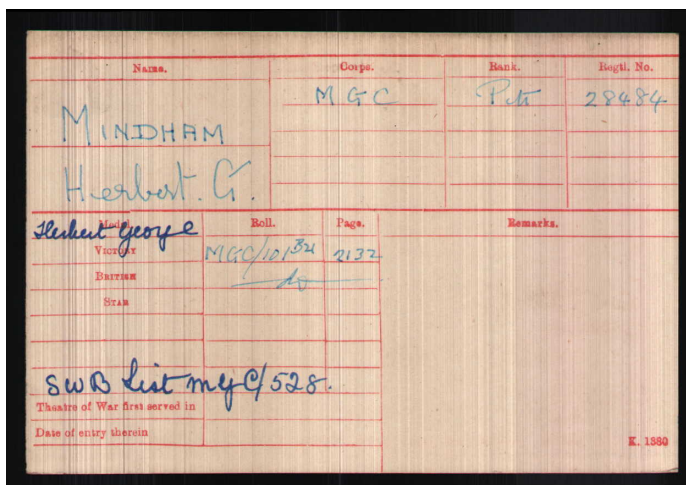


Figure 2: Medal Roll index card for Herbert George Mindham

Herbert married Elsie Inez Edge in 1923,²⁵ and they went on to raise a family. In the 1939 Register, Herbert is living at 103 Ketts Road, Norwich, with his wife Elsie. His occupation is given as a builder and decorator. Herbert died in Norwich in 1965, aged 67.²⁶

Augustus Elmar Doughty, Lydia's younger brother (and uncle to Herbert, with whom he appears to have grown up), is also recorded on the Wood Norton War Memorial, being one of the servicemen who survived the conflict.

²³ FreeBMD, Marriage, *Quarter to December 1950, Winchester, Vol.6b, p.1351*(www.freebmd.org.uk); England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, *Southampton, E69, p.5001* (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁴ UK, Silver War Badge Records, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁵ FreeBMD, Marriage, *Quarter to June 1923, Norwich, Vol.4b, p.313* (www.freebmd.org.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1891, Docking, Vol. 4b, p.403* (www.freebmd.org.uk) records the birth of Elsie Inez Edge.

²⁶ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1965, Norwich, Vol.4b, p.704* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1963-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).