

KENNEDY MBE, Douglas Neil

London Scottish & Royal Defence Corps

Photo

Second visible face from the left in the back row of this group photo of officers of the London Scottish.



War Service

Having enrolled as a cadet in the Scottish Volunteer Regiment in 1911, whilst studying Biology at Imperial College of Science, by 14 Feb 1915 he had been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 14th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (London Scottish). Boarded medically unfit for overseas service, however, instead of deploying with their 2nd Battalion, he found himself posted to a role in North Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire responsible for key point security. These included bridges, ports, munitions factories and airship sites, and he and his wife Helen were billeted in Selby. In early 1917 he was reassigned in the rank of acting captain as adjutant to a Col Wilkinson in the Royal Defence Corps HQ in York, where he and Helen spent the rest of the war. After a bout of Spanish Flu after the armistice, in Feb 1919 he was discharged from the Army and returned to his studies at Imperial Collage. He was awarded an MBE for his services in Jul 1919, as well as the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Connection to Waldringfield

Although born (on 11 May 1893) and brought up in Edinburgh and then London, where by 1911 he was studying at Imperial College, by 1960 he and his first wife Helen (nee Karpeles) were living in the Deck House just off Cliff Road. He continued to live there with his second wife Liz (nee Ogden) until his death on 7 Jan 1988, and Liz continued to live there until two years before her death in Dec 2023. Douglas, Helen and Liz are all both buried at All Saints Church.

Life after the War

After a spell as a botany demonstrator at Imperial College, in 1924 he took over as Director of the English Folk Dance Society (which he had joined in 1911) from Cecil Sharp and held this post for 37 years until his retirement in 1961. His future father-in-law, Bill Ogden, had been the society's first auditor. For his services to the English Folk Dance & Song Society he was awarded the OBE in 1952. He also served as an officer in the RAFVR during WW2, for which he was awarded the 1939-45 War Medal & Star, and his eldest son John was killed in action against the battlecruiser Admiral Hipper off Norway whilst serving on HMS Glowworm on 8 Apr 1940. In retirement in Waldringfield Douglas enjoyed sailing his yacht Janora and swimming regularly in the river well into his nineties.