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# The Hunts Post

## True Story Of A Wartime Love

29 January 2008

mailto:webdesk@herts24.co.uk

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AN attractive young nurse saw the body of a young man lying in a row of corpses outside a hospital.

This was during the First World War and the mortuary was full. Something made her look again and she thought she saw him move.

She ran to her locker, opened her vanity case and took out a mirror. Once she held the mirror to his mouth, she realised that he was still breathing and the young man was returned to the ward.

This is a true story. The nurse and the soldier married four years later in 1919 and became the grandparents of Ian Gillman, a commercial photographer from Catworth who has now written a novel about the couple, tracing their lives up to the 1960s.

The story reflects the changes brought out by the depression of the 1930s and the Second World War.

The book is called Kernow, the Celtic name for Cornwall and is a story Ian has grown up with.

He said he decided to start writing it in 2004 when technology meant he changed the way he worked.

"After 24 years, I disposed of the premises and staff. I was left with more time and I thought I should sit down and make the effort," he said.

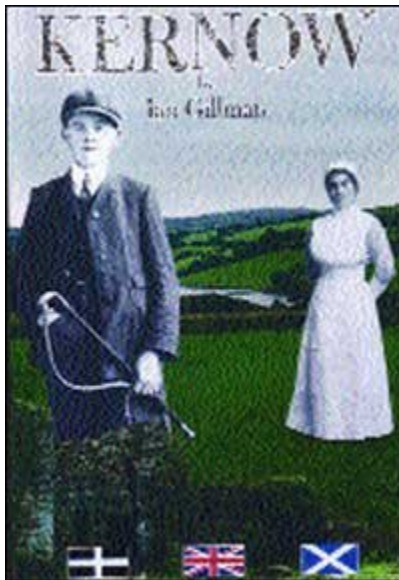
His grandfather, Edwin, was a horseman, a courier, who developed rheumatic fever riding in the wet between the trenches. The condition lowers the pulse and the heart-rate, which was why he was believed to be dead.

His grandmother, Maggie was from Scotland. Even though she had saved her future husband's life, her father-in-law, a Cornish man going back generations, stopped talking to his son after a row about their marriage.

Mr Gillman says: "He wanted his son to marry a Cornish girl.



Author Ian Gillman



The book cover showing the author's grandfather as a boy, around 1906 and his grandmother as a nurse in 1914

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Every Sunday after chapel, he would bring back a girl to lunch for his son to meet and every week Edwin would have to think up excuses."



INFORMATION: Kernow by Ian Gillman is published by Trafford Publishing, Oxford. It is available from online from Amazon, Borders.com and abebooks.com

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