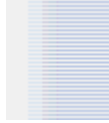




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- [Sport](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [What's On](#)
- [Jobs Today](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Win win win!](#)
- [We'll Meet Again](#)
- [Virtual Tours](#)
- [Tourism](#)
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Inseparable in life... and death

by [Julie Magee](#)



DEVOTED sisters Dorothy Simpson and Edie Martin were inseparable in life and death.

After sharing a home for almost three decades, it seemed fitting that their final hours were spent in

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the same hospital.

Just one day after 88-year-old Dorothy was admitted to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, 97-year-old Edie lost her battle for life in another ward.

Three days later grandmother Dorothy passed away, unaware that her beloved sister had already died.

"They were very close and, even though we didn't tell her, it was almost as if Nan knew that Edie had already gone," said Dorothy's grandson, Nick Tidiman, from Boscombe.

The sisters were born in Finchley, London, and separated after setting up home with their new husbands. Dorothy married Edward Dolby and the couple had two children.

When they divorced she met Vincent Simpson and they moved to Bournemouth in the early 1960s.

A few years later Edie followed Dorothy to the south coast after being widowed and emigrating to Australia.

"She never settled in Sydney and was very homesick," said Edie's daughter, Pam Neil.

"Dad died at the age of 45 and then mum met my stepfather, Bill. The family moved to Chessel Avenue in Boscombe while Dorothy and Vincent ran a guesthouse in Windsor Road."

Once reunited, the sisters were scarcely apart, moving into a house together in St Clement's Road after Bill and Vincent passed away.

"When Nan's health started failing almost 20 years ago they managed to get warden assisted flats in Bethany House," said Nick.

"Neither wanted to go into a home so it seemed perfect as they were able to stay together."

Even before they shared the same roof, Edie and Dorothy enjoyed the same interests.

"They both loved playing bingo and going to the Home Guard and British Legion clubs together," added Nick.

Family friend Lyn Gaudreau said: "They had an amazing relationship and could not have lived without one another.

"Although their personalities were very different they seemed to complement each other."

Dorothy's granddaughter, Roseanna Tidiman, said: "Nan had been in hospital 26 times in the past 13 years but she never moaned.

"Aunt Edie had been very healthy all her life and only gave up smoking at the age of 82 when she started to suffer from chest problems.

"When Nan was very poorly in hospital she told me not to tell Edie because she didn't want to worry her. When Edie died we didn't let her know.

"But, after spending so many years together, there seemed to be some sort of telepathy between them or a much greater force at work.

"At one stage we thought we were going to lose them both on the same day because Nan was so ill, but she battled on for another three days."

Nick said: "Because Edie and Dorothy had been soul mates for so many years it seemed right they should have a joint funeral service."

The sisters were cremated at Bournemouth crematorium on Tuesday.

"Their ashes will be scattered just yards apart; Edie's on the crematorium's garden of remembrance and nan's interred with our mum Jean's ashes," said Nick.

"Losing both of them at the same time has been distressing for the family but it seems a fitting end that they are still together."

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