

Private Albert Edward Grimwood

Regimental number: 12950

2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

born: 1894 - died: 4 July 1918

Private Albert Edward Grimwood (known as Edward), born in 1894,¹ was the son of Christopher and Eliza Grimwood of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.² His father was born in about 1866 near Cosford, Suffolk³ and his mother, the former Eliza Halls, was born in about 1869, also near Cosford.⁴ Christopher and Eliza were married in Hitcham, Suffolk on 27 November 1891.⁵ They had eleven children⁶ – all but one of whom survived childhood: William Robert (born in 1893),⁷ Albert Edward, Christopher (born in 1896),⁸ Lily May (born in 1898),⁹ Ethel Margaret (born in 1900),¹⁰ Florence Mary (born in about 1902, but died just three years later),¹¹ Reginald James (born in 1905),¹² Ivy Elsie (born in 1907),¹³ Claude Thomas (born in 1909),¹⁴ John Bernard (born in 1912)¹⁵ and Muriel Daisy (born in 1915).¹⁶

In 1901, Edward's father was a horseman, working on a farm.¹⁷ By 1911, he was employing others at Elder House Farm, Thorpe Morieux, Bury St Edmunds, where he, his wife and seven of their children were living.¹⁸ Two sons – Edward and Christopher – were working on the farm. Their older brother, William, was working as a general servant in the home of a rector in the Great Bradley Rectory, Newmarket, Suffolk.¹⁹

Edward enlisted as a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment.²⁰ When the war broke out, the 2nd Battalion was in Ireland. It returned immediately to England and went directly to France, arriving in Le Havre on 17 August 1914.²¹ Edward joined the Battalion there on 27 July 1915²² and probably participated in many major engagements on the Western Front.



A. E. Grimwood M.M in Pernes Cemetery
(Source: Author, 2015)

Sadly, after surviving for nearly three years on the Front, Edward was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 3 July 1918 with shrapnel wounds penetrating his back and a fractured humerus of the right arm. He died the following day and was buried on 5 July in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row D, Grave 31), with the chaplain J. K. Tibbitts presiding. Edward was shown as a member of the Church of England. Edward was one of 39 patients who died at the 1st CCCS in July 1918.²³ There are over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery – most of them were soldiers who died at one of the nearby clearing stations.²⁴ This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

His mother was notified of his death and his father received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.²⁵ Edward's mother died on 23 November 1965 and was buried in Shalford, Essex.²⁶ His father died on 7 February 1947 and was buried in Wethersfield, Essex.

Edward was awarded a Military Medal, which was given to Other Ranks for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land.²⁷ He was also awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²⁸

It is not known if Edward's older brothers served in the Great War. His eldest brother, William, immigrated to Canada in 1912²⁹ and married Gertrude Emily Meyer in April 1916.³⁰ William was working then as a farmer in Thorold Township, Ontario. In 1921, he was still farming in Thorold and living with his wife, who had also emigrated from England in 1914, and their two children: William (aged 3) and Dorothy (aged 1).³¹

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Albert Edward Grimwood, Registration district: Thingoe, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 735

² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Edward Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Registration District Number: 206, Sub-registration district: Lavenham, ED, institution, or vessel: 14, Household schedule number: 42, Piece: 10581

³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Christopher Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 470

⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Eliza Halls, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 443

⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 December 2015), entry for Christopher Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, , Volume: 4a, Page: 1274; "Ray Longs Cosford Database," (<http://historyofsuffolk.co.uk/cosford/hitcham/d43.html>); accessed 4 May 2015)

⁶ "Ray Longs Cosford Database"

⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for William Robert Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 756

⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Christopher Grimwood, Registration district: Thingoe, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 786

⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Lily May Grimwood, Registration district: Thingoe, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 815

¹⁰ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Margaret Ethel Grimwood, Registration district: Thingoe, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 881

¹¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Florence Mary Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 922; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Florence Mary Grimwood, , Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 424

¹² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Reginald James Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 953

¹³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Ivy Elsie Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 924

¹⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Claude Thomas Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 898

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- ¹⁵ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for John B. Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 1707
- ¹⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Muriel D. Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Inferred County: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 1591
- ¹⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Edward Grimwood, Registration district: Cosford, Sub-registration district: Lavenham, ED, institution, or vessel: 19, Piece: 1748, Folio: 181, Page Number: 5, Household schedule number: 32
- ¹⁸ "1911 England Census," entry for Edward Grimwood
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- ²⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Albert Edward Grimwood
- ²¹ "Suffolk Regiment 2nd Btn during the Great War," *Wartime Memroies Project* (<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/alliedarmy-view.php?pid=7296>; accessed 4 May 2015)
- ²² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Albert E. Grimwood
- ²³ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G)
- ²⁴ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ²⁵ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Albert Edward Grimwood
- ²⁶ "Ray Longs Cosford Database"
- ²⁷ "The London Gazette," entry for A. E. Grimwood (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/29827/supplement/11140>; accessed 30 August 2015) Publication date: 14 November 1916, Supplement: 29827, Page: 11140
- ²⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Albert E. Grimwood
- ²⁹ "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for Wm Robert Grimwood
- ³⁰ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 May 2015), entry for William Robert Grimwood
- ³¹ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 May 2015), entry for Francis Ward Gorg Spooner, Province or Territory: Ontario, District: Welland, District Number: 23, Sub-District: Thorold (Township), Sub-District Number: 20, City, Town or Village: Thorold Township