

Private Albert James Heasman[©]

Regimental number: G/6609

11th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)

born: 1889 – died: 25 June 1916

Private Albert James Heasman (likely known as James) was born in 1889¹ in Battersea, Surrey,² the son of Stephen and Elizabeth Heasman, and was baptized on 8 July 1894 at Stamford Hill St John, Vartry Road in the Borough of Haringey.³ His father was born in about 1853 in Sevenoaks, Kent and his mother in about 1861 in Colchester, Essex.⁴ His mother, the former Elizabeth James, and his father married on 1 August 1881 at the parish church of St James the Great, Bethnal Green in London. They had ten children—seven of whom survived childhood.⁵ The children who have been identified include William Edward (born in 1882),⁶ John Frederick (born in about 1884),⁷ Stephen Robert (born in 1886, but died in 1891),⁸ Richard Henry (born in 1887, but died at the age of 15 in 1903),⁹ James, Florence Elizabeth Mary (born in 1891),¹⁰ Daisy Louisa (born in 1894),¹¹ Amelia Violet Ivy (born in about 1897)¹² and Thomas Reginald (born in 1899).¹³ It was not possible to identify with certainty their tenth child who probably died in childhood.

For over twenty years, James' family lived at 57 Blondel Street in Battersea.¹⁴ For much of his life, his father was a general labourer.¹⁵ However, he also worked as a maltster¹⁶ and a navvy.¹⁷ By 1911, at the age of 22, James was working as a milkman.¹⁸ At the end of that year, he married Eva King West. They married on 24 December 1911 at St Saviour's Church in Battersea. Eva was born on 5 June 1894 or 1895¹⁹ in Surrey. Before her marriage, she was working at a laundry packer and sorter.²⁰ She and James probably had two children: Eva G., born in 1913,²¹ and Violet G. I., born on 28 December 1914.²²

James served with the 11th Battalion of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).²³ At the end of June 1916, the 11th Battalion was in the trenches north-east of B  thune in northern France and subject to enemy shelling on its position.²⁴ On 23 June, two Other Ranks (non-officers) were wounded. On 24 June, trench mortar shells landed well behind the company on the right, but the battalion's artillery retaliated. Shelling continued during the day and there were four more casualties. On 25 June the shelling continued and the battalion's artillery was active day and night, destroying one enemy machine gun placement. Another OR was killed. Perhaps James was one of the ORs wounded or killed. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died of his wounds on 25 June 1916.²⁵ He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: II. E. 158).²⁶

Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian CCS, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.²⁷

His wife, who was living at 51 Usk Road in Battersea, was notified of his death.²⁸ She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²⁹

James was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).³⁰

James' widow Eva remarried in 1920, marrying Sidney J. Peterkin in Wandsworth.³¹ They probably had at least two sons—William R. Peterkin,³² born on 26 October 1919³³ and Cyril J. E. Peterkin,³⁴ born on 16 January 1924.³⁵ In 1939, Eva was living at 1 Derwent Close in Chertsey (Urban District) in Surrey with her son Cyril and her daughter, Violet Peterkin, who had married Edward S. Peterkin, probably the previous month. Edward may have been Sidney's brother.³⁶ At the time, Eva's and Violet's husbands were living at 86 Meyrick Road, Battersea, London, with Eva and Sidney's first son, William.³⁷

© 2016 BIFHSGO

¹ "England & Wales births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Albert James Heasman, District: Wandsworth, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 589

² "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 October 2016), entry for Albert James Heasman

³ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 22 October 2016), entry for Albert James Heason, Record type: Baptism, Borough: Haringney, Register type: Parish Registers

⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 8 October 2016), entry for James Hearman [*sic*], Registration district: Wandsworth, Registration district number: 26, Sub-registration district: East Battersea, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 14, Piece: 2157

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 October 2016), entry for William Edward Heasman, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 732

⁷ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 22 October 2016), entry for Albert J Hausman [*sic*], Registration district: Wandsworth, Sub registration district: East Battersea, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9, Piece: 421, Folio: 92, Page: 8; "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 22 October 2016), entry for John Frederick Heasman, Record type: Baptism, Borough: Wandsworth, Register type: Parish Registers

⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Stephen Robert Heasman, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 679; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 21 January 2016), entry for Stephen Robert Heasman, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 413

⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Richard Henry Heasman, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 613; "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 22 October 2016), entry for Richard Henry Hesman [*sic*], Borough: Wandsworth, Register type: Parish Registers; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 21 January 2016), entry for Richard Henry Heasman, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 301

¹⁰ "England & Wales births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Florence Elizabeth M. Heasman, District: Wandsworth, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 585

¹¹ "England & Wales births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Daisy Louisa Heasman, District: Wandsworth, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 572

¹² "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Heasman, Amelia Violet Ivy, Volume 01D, Page 568

¹³ "England & Wales births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Thomas Reginald Heasman, District: Wandsworth, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 592;

"London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 October 2016), entry for Thomas Reginald Heasman, Record type: Baptism, Borough: Wandsworth, Register type: Parish Registers

¹⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 October 2016), entry for Albert J Hausman [*sic*]; "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 October 2016), entry for James Heasman; "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 October 2016), entry for James Hearman [*sic*]

¹⁵ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 October 2016), entry for Stephen Hasman [*sic*], Registration district: Wandsworth, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 77a, Piece: 654, Folio: 133, Page: 24

¹⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 October 2016), entry for Albert J Hausman [*sic*]. A malster made or sold malt for brewing. ("Old occupation names" Hall Genealogy Website, (<http://rmhh.co.uk/>; accessed 10 October 2016)

¹⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 October 2016), entry for James Heasman. A naavy was a labourer on canals, railways or roads. ("Old occupation names" Hall Genealogy Website, (<http://rmhh.co.uk/>; accessed 10 October 2016)

¹⁸ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 October 2016), entry for James Hearman [*sic*]

¹⁹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.Findmypast.co.uk: accessed 24 October 2016), entry for Eva Peterkin, Ref: RG101/4506F/005/2 Letter code: –

²⁰ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 October 2016), entry for Eva West, Registration district: Wandsworth, Registration district number: 26, Sub-registration district: South West Battersea, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 3, Piece: 2223

²¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Eva G Heasman, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 993

²² "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.Findmypast.co.uk: accessed 24 October 2016), entry for Eva Peterkin–

²³ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 October 2016), entry for Albert James Heasman

²⁴ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," ANCESTRY Regiment or Unit: Royal Sussex Regiment. Sub Unit: 11th Battalion, Division: 39th Division, Diary dates: 1916 Mar - 1918 Jun, Piece description: Piece 2582/1: 11 Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (1916 Mar - 1918 Jun), Piece number: 2582

²⁵ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 6 October 2016), entry for Heaseman [*sic*], A.

²⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Heasman, James Albert, Service No: 6609

²⁷ "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery,%20Nord>: accessed 5 August 2015)

²⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 6 October 2016), entry for Heaseman [*sic*], A.

²⁹ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 October 2016), entry for Albert James Heasman [*sic*]

³⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 October 2016), entry for Albert James Heasman

³¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 October 2016), entry for Eva Heasman, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred county: Surrey, Volume: 1d, Page: 968

³² "England & Wales births 1837–2006," , " *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 November 2016), entry for William R D Peterkin, District: Battersea, County: London, Volume: 1d, Page: S'44

³³ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.Findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 November 2016), entry for S J Peterkin

³⁴ "England & Wales births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 24 October 2016), entry for Cyril J E Peterkin, District: Wandsworth, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 882

³⁵ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.Findmypast.co.uk: accessed 24 October 2016), entry for Eva Peterkin

³⁶ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 October 2016), entry for Sidney Peterken [*sic*], Registration district: Fulham, Registration district number: 3, Sub-registration district: South Fulham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 30, Piece: 367

³⁷ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.Findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 November 2016), entry for S J Peterkin