

Private Edwin Thomas Stopps©
Regimental number: 11751
9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment

born: 27 June 1897 - died: 2 June 1918

Private Edwin Thomas Stopps was born on 27 June 1897 at Lawn Hill Farm in Moreton Pinkney, Northamptonshire, the son of William and Mary Stopps.¹ His father, William Thomas, was born on 6 December 1863² in Kimble, Buckinghamshire, and his mother, the former Mary Ward, daughter of the late Edwin Ward and his wife Sarah of Manor Farm in Moreton Pinkney,³ was born on 21 November 1866.⁴ Edwin's parents married at the parish church in Moreton Pinkney on 29 September 1896.⁵

William and Mary had three children. Edwin was the eldest; his two younger siblings were Eric William (born on 22 September 1902)⁶ and Marjorie (born in early August 1908 but died before her first birthday).⁷

Edwin's father was a farmer. In 1901, he was farming at Temple's Lodge in Barton Seagrave, near Kettering in Northamptonshire.⁸

However, the family was not with him at the time of the census. Instead, he had three sisters and a brother-in-law living with him. Edwin's mother was living with her parents at Manor Farm⁹ and Edwin was living with his father's parents, Thomas and Mary Stopps, at Cold Higham, near Grimscote, Northamptonshire.¹⁰ Cold Higham, Moreton Pinkney and Barton Seagrave were only about 40 miles apart, on either side of Northampton. By 1911, the family was together at Lodge Farm in Barton Seagrave.¹¹

In about June 1916,¹² Edwin enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment in Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire.¹³ At the end of May 1918, he was serving with the 9th Battalion and was on the front, near Loos in northern France. On 31 May, "[a]bout 400 Gas Projectors [were] fired on to Battalion Sector at 11:45 p.m. and about 20 at 12:35 am. (1/6/18). These were of large size and produced a great concentration of gas. Casualties were rather heavy. 21 OR . . . Killed and wounded."¹⁴ Edwin may have been one of them, because he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 June. He died the following day, just three weeks before his 21st birthday. He was buried in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 41), with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.¹⁵

His father, who was living in Barton Seagrave, was his next of kin, was notified of his death¹⁶ and received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.¹⁷ His father had the following inscription included on his gravestone:

AT PEACE FOR EVER¹⁸

Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.¹⁹ In June 1918, over 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS, where there were 82 deaths.²⁰



Private Edwin Thomas Stopps
Source: "UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919,"
Ancestry

Edwin was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²¹ He is honoured on the war memorial in Barton Seagrave.²²

In 1939, Edwin's parents were living at "Wilmarie" on Cranford Road in Kettering.²³ Their second son, Eric, had married (Dorothy E. Hawkes in 1931) and was living just a couple of miles away at 163 Barton Road in Kettering.²⁴ Eric, like his father and grandfather, was a farmer.

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¹ "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813–1912," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Edwin Thomas Stopps, Register type: Parish registers

² "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for William Thomas Stopps, Ref: RG101/6141B/002/4, Letter Code: RKFE

³ "UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Edwin Thomas Stopps; "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for Mary Stopps, Registration district: Brackley, Sub-registration district: Brackley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9, Piece: 1407, Folio: 105, Page: 26, Household schedule number: 100

⁴ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for William Thomas Stopps

⁵ "Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754–1912," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for William Thomas Stopps

⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for Eric William Stopps, Registration district: Kettering, Inferred county: Northamptonshire, Volume: 7, Page: 2538

⁷ "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813–1912," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for Marjorie Stopps, Register type: Parish registers ; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for Marjorie Stopps, Registration district: Kettering, Inferred county: Northamptonshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 125

⁸ "1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for William T Stopps, Registration district: Barton Seagrave, Archive reference: RG13, Piece: 1466, Folio: 8, Page: 8

⁹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for Mary Stopps

¹⁰ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for Edwin Stopps, Registration district: Towcester, Sub-registration district: Towcester, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Piece: 1411, Folio: 5, Page: 1, Household schedule number: 1

¹¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Edwin Thomas Stopps, Registration district: Kettering, Registration district number: 167, Sub-registration district: Burton Latimer, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 1, Household schedule number: 38, Piece: 8559

¹² Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017) ; "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Edwin Thomas Stopps

¹³ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Edwin Thomas Stopps

¹⁴ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), Regiment or unit: Royal Sussex Regiment, Sub-unit: 9th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary dates: 1915 Aug–1919 May, Piece description: Piece 2219/2: 9 Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (1915 Aug–1919 May), Piece number: 2219

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- ¹⁵ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Stopps, E
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Edwin Thomas Stopps
- ¹⁸ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Stopps, Edwin Thomas, Service No: 11751
- ¹⁹ “Pernes British Military Cemetery,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ²⁰ “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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)
- ²¹ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 November 2017), entry for Edwin T Stopps
- ²² “The War Memorial in Barton Seagrave,” *The Bedfordshire Regiment in the Great War* (<http://www.bedfordregiment.org.uk/gravesandmemorials/Barton/bartonseagrave.html>: accessed 17 November 2017)
- ²³ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for William Thomas Stopps
- ²⁴ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 17 November 2017), entry for Eric W Stopps, Ref: RG101/6118G/015/1, Letter Code: RJHF