

Gunner James Robert Goodsell[©]
Regimental number: 103496
“A” Battalion, 147th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

born: 1894 - died: 31 May 1918

During his military career, James was known as Gunner James Goodsell. However, he was born James Robert Gutsell in 1895,¹ the son of Robert and Emily.² Both his parents were born in Brede, Sussex—his father in about 1863 and his mother, the former Emily Mallet, about six years later.³ Robert married Emily in 1891 near Rye, Sussex.⁴ Emily’s first child, Mary Ann Mallet, was born in 1888,⁵ three years before her marriage to Robert. Just before they married in the spring of 1891, Emily and her daughter were living with Emily’s brother, Henry Mallet, and his wife in Brede.⁶ Emily was a domestic servant. After their marriage, Robert and Emily had three sons:⁷ Henry John (born in 1892),⁸ James and Freddy (born in 1901).⁹

In 1901, the family, recorded as Goodsell, was living at 4 Alpha Place in Brede, Sussex. James’ father was an agricultural labourer.¹⁰ Ten years later the family, this time recorded as Gutsell, was living at the same address. By now, James, age 15, was a domestic house boy.¹¹

James enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in Hastings, Sussex,¹² in May 1915.¹³ He went to France on 6 December 1915 with the Royal Field Artillery.¹⁴ He survived two and a half years before he was admitted, on 30 May 1918, to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his head.¹⁵ He died the next day and was buried in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row D, Grave 43), with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.

His mother requested the following inscription on his headstone:

NOT GONE FROM MEMORY
NOR FROM LOVE
BUT GONE TO
HIS FATHER’S HOME ABOVE¹⁶

In May 1918, nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.¹⁷ There were 115 deaths that month—more than in any of the other three and a half months that No. 1 CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCS came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.¹⁸

His father was notified of James’ death¹⁹ and received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²⁰

James was 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).²¹

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¹ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2017) entry for Gutsell, James, Registration district: Rye, Volume 02B, Page 9

² “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2017), entry for James R Goodsell, Registration district: Rye, Sub-registration district: Beckley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 06, Piece: 861, Folio: 39, Page: 3, Household schedule number: 21

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2017), entry for Robert Gutsell, Registration district: Rye, Inferred county: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 26

⁵ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2017) entry for Mallett, Mary Ann, Registration district: Rye, Volume 02B, Page 7

⁶ “1891 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 September 2017), entry for Emily Mallett, Registration district: Rye, Sub-registration district: Beckley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Piece: 757, Folio: 70

⁷ According to the 1911 Census, Emily had five children, all of whom were living in 1911. However, no evidence was found of the fifth child.

⁸ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2017) entry for Gutsell, Henry John, Registration district: Rye, Volume 02B, Page 8

⁹ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2017) entry for Gutsell, Freddy, Registration district: Rye, Volume 02B, Page 8

¹⁰ “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2017), entry for James R Goodsell

¹¹ “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 August 2017), entry for Robert Gutsell, Registration district: Rye, Registration district number: 68, Sub-registration district: Beckley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 49, Piece: 4710

¹² “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2017), entry for James Goodsell

¹³ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratitude.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 30 August 2017), entry for James Goodsell

¹⁴ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2017), entry for James Goodsell

¹⁵ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Goodshell [sic], J

¹⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Goodsell, James, Service No: 103496

¹⁷ “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)

¹⁸ “Pernes British Military Cemetery” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

¹⁹ Change to “See endnote 15” ? “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2017), entry for Goodshell [sic], J

²⁰ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers’ Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2017), entry for James Goodsell

²¹ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2017), entry for James Goodsell