

Private James Hoggins (Murray)©

Regimental number: 8411

1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

born: 1895 - died: 11 May 1918

Private James Hoggins served in the British Expeditionary Force under the names Hoggins and Murray.¹ He was probably the eldest son of James and Ellen Hoggins.² Ellen's maiden name was Murray, but it is not known why James would have served under his mother's maiden name, since everything suggests he was the legitimate son of James Hoggins.

James Senior was born in about 1871 in Newcastle upon Tyne and his wife Ellen in the following year in Easingwold, Yorkshire.³ They married in 1893.⁴ After James, who was born in 1895 in Newcastle upon Tyne,⁵ they had seven more children, three of whom they lost as infants. James' siblings were Catherine (born in 1896),⁶ Edith (born in 1897 but died a few months later),⁷ Albert (born in 1899),⁸ Annie (born in 1901),⁹ Arthur (born in 1904, but also died in infancy),¹⁰ Norman (born in 1907)¹¹ and Norah (born in 1910 but died the following year).¹²

In 1901, the family was living at 37 Henry Street in Newcastle upon Tyne, where James Sr. was a sawyer, working at home.¹³ Ten years later, the family had moved to 39 Avondale Road in Newcastle. James Sr. was working at the timber yard and his son James was now an apprentice sawyer.¹⁴

James signed up to serve at the very beginning of the Great War. He enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in about August 1914¹⁵ and went to France on 4 December 1914¹⁶ with the 1st Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He enlisted early in the war, first went to the Front at the end of 1914 and survived for nearly four years.

At the beginning of May 1918, his battalion was in billets in Chocques, just west of Bethune, in northern France.¹⁷ There was time for some soldiers to have baths, but the battalion was on two hours' notice for returning to the trenches. On 4 May, the soldiers were awoken early in the morning by enemy shelling near the billets and they had to be ready to ensure speedy evacuation. Gas attacks and shelling continued from both sides over the next few days. On 10 May, there was considerable enemy shelling. Perhaps that was what injured James. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 10 May with shrapnel wounds to his chest. He died the following day.¹⁸

He was one of 54 1st Battalion soldiers sent to a casualty clearing station in the month of May¹⁹ and one of 195 admissions to No. 1 CCCS on 10 May. In the whole month of May, a total of nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to this station and 115 died.²⁰

James was buried in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row 8, Grave 30) on 11 May, with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.²¹ This 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.²²

James was awarded posthumously 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).²³ His sister Hannah

Dodd, who was living a Oystershell Lane in Newcastle, applied for the 1914-15 Star in August 1919.²⁴

James' sister Annie, who was living at 6 Pusey Place in Newcastle, was his next of kin and was notified of his death.²⁵ She—by then she was married and was known as Annie Gibson—and his other sister, Hannah Dodd, received the monies owing to James from the army upon his death.²⁶

James' brother Albert also served in the Great War. He was a driver in the Royal Air Force (regimental number: 251873)²⁷ and was awarded two medals—the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.²⁸ He was too young to enlist earlier in the war and, as such, was not entitled to the 1914–15 Star. In 1920, he was living at 14 Beresford Road in Newcastle.²⁹ In 1936, he probably married Mary E. Gill and three years later they were living at 46 Biddlestone Road in Newcastle.³⁰

In 1939, James' youngest brother Norman was probably married and living at 14 Beresford Road, where his brother had been just after the war.³¹

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¹ "Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2018), entry for James Murray; "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2018), entry for James Hoggins

² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 January 2018), entry for James Hoggins, Registration district: Newcastle upon Tyne, Registration district number: 558, Sub-registration district: Byker, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 30667

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 January 2018), entry for James Hoggins, Registration district: Newcastle upon Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10a, Page: 138

⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, James, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 55

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, Catherine, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 54

⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, Edith, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 52; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Edith Hoggins, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 40

⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, Albert, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 156

⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, Annie, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 148

¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, Arthur, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 134; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Arthur Hoggins, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 83

¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, Norman, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 124

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- ¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 January 2018) entry for Hoggins, Nora, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Volume 10B, Page 139; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Norah [sic] Hoggins, Registration district: Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Inferred county: Northumberland, Volume: 10b, Page: 97
- ¹³ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2018), entry for Bruno Whittle, Registration district: Newcastle upon Tyne, Sub-registration district: All Saints, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 4786, Folio: 51, Page: 22, Household schedule number: 107
- ¹⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 January 2018), entry for James Hoggins
- ¹⁵ Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2018); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2018), entry for James Hoggins
- ¹⁶ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Albert Hoggins
- ¹⁷ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 January 2018), Regiment or unit: Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub-unit: 1st Battalion, Division: 3rd Division, Diary dates: 1914 Aug 1–1915 June 30, Piece description: Piece 1430/1-4: 9 Infantry Brigade: 1 Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1914 Aug–1919 May), Piece number: 1430
- ¹⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 16 January 2018), entry for Hoggins, J.
- ¹⁹ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 January 2018), Regiment or unit: Northumberland Fusiliers, Sub-unit: 1st Battalion
- 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=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)
- ²¹ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 16 January 2018), entry for Hoggins, J.
- ²² "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- ²³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for James Hoggins
- ²⁴ No information could be found about a sister Hannah.
- ²⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Albert Hoggins
- ²⁶ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 18 January 2018), entry for James Hoggins.
- ²⁷ "UK, Absent Voter Lists, 1918–1925, 1939," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Albert Hoggins
- ²⁸ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Albert Hoggins. His regimental number has been reported in another document as 15347. ("UK, Absent Voter Lists, 1918–1925, 1939," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Albert Hoggins)
- ²⁹ "UK, Absent Voter Lists, 1918–1925, 1939," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Albert Hoggins
- ³⁰ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 January 2018), entry for Albert Hoggins, Ref: RG101/2924C/003/34 Letter Code: GALP
- ³¹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2018), entry for Norman Hoggins, Ref: RG101/2935A/010/5, Letter code: GASL