

Private Arthur Houghton Bugby[©]
Regimental number: 28307
7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

born: 1897 - died: 4 June 1918

Private Arthur Houghton Bugby was born in about 1897¹ in Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire,² the youngest of 17 children born to Jacob Cuthbert Bugby and Caroline Houghton.³ Both Arthur's parents were born in Irthlingborough—Caroline on 7 April 1854⁴ and Jacob in about the same year.⁵ They married in the parish church in Irthlingborough on 10 August 1873, when Jacob was just 19 and Caroline was 20.⁶ Caroline subsequently gave birth to eight daughters:

- Eliza (born on 18 September 1873),⁷
- Rebecca Elizabeth (born in 1879),⁸
- May (born on 10 May 1883),⁹
- Daisey Ellen (born in 1885),¹⁰
- Florence Emily (born in 1890),¹¹
- Rose Ellen (known sometimes as Nellie) (born in 1892),¹²
- Daisy (born on 2 January 1894) and¹³
- Violet Lilly (born in 1896)¹⁴

and 9 sons:

- Walter Jacob (born on 12 April 1875),¹⁵
- Twins Isaac and Jacob (born in 1876),¹⁶
- Albert Edward (born in 1878),¹⁷
- James Edward (known as Edward or Ted) (born on 12 November 1881),¹⁸
- John William (also known as Jack) (born 28 March 1885),¹⁹
- Andrew (born in 1889),²⁰
- William Stacey (born in 1895),²¹ and finally
- Arthur Houghton.

Sadly, they lost six children in childhood—they first lost their twins Isaac and Jacob soon after birth,²² William also very young,²³ Daisey Ellen when she was 1;²⁴ Albert at the age of about 3²⁵ and Violet when she was about 4.²⁶

In 1881, the family was living on High Street in Irthlingborough, where Jacob was a furnace man.²⁷ Ten years later, the family was at the same address.²⁸ Arthur's father died in 1898, probably just months before the birth of his last child. After Jacob's death, the family was living on College Street in Irthlingboro. Caroline, who had worked as a boot closer before she married, was now a higgler. (A higgler was an itinerant peddler, who often bartered for goods.²⁹) She appears to have employed at least two of her children, who were making boots with her.³⁰

By 1911, the family was living at 20 High Street West and Caroline was a general carter, carrying goods by wagon.³¹ By then Arthur had joined her in the boot trade, working in a lasting room—probably for his mother. Three other children may have also been working for her.³² As a child, Arthur attended the Wesleyan Church in Irthlingborough and, on 4 January 1914, he was presented with a Bible at the Sunday evening service.³³

Nearly three years later, Arthur enlisted in Northampton as a private in the Northamptonshire Regiment.³⁴ He was living at 88 High Street West and was a shoe hand when he enlisted on 9 October 1916; he was 19 years old and 5'4" tall. He went to France, travelling from Folkestone to Calais on 1 January 1917, and joined the regiment's 7th Battalion. He had been in the field for just six months when he was wounded. He received shrapnel wounds to his right thigh on 31 July 1917 and was taken to the 90th Field Ambulance and, from there, to No. 2 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and No. 14 Stationary Hospital in Wimereux, on the coast of France, just north of Boulogne-sur-mer. He rejoined his battalion about six weeks later. The *Northampton Mercury* announced that he had been wounded in its edition of 7 September 1917.³⁵ By then, he was back with his unit.

Arthur had not been back with his battalion for long when he was disciplined for his "absence from Tattoo Roll Call 8.45 p.m. till 10.15 p.m." on 24 September 1917. For this offence, he was confined to camp for eight days. He had two weeks' leave in January 1918.

At the end of May 1918, the 7th Battalion was in the vicinity of Hill 70, near Lens, France. On 30 May, the battalion relieved the 13th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and the next day gas projectors and shells were sent over the battalion's lines and there were casualties. The following two days more Other Ranks [non-officers] were wounded in gas attacks. On 3 June, enemy artillery was slightly active during the day. The battalion's war diary notes that "1 O.R. [Other Rank] wounded (died from wounds later)."³⁶ This was possibly Arthur.

Arthur received gunshot wounds to his left side—his left arm and penetrating his left abdomen. He was taken to the 73rd Field Ambulance and then admitted the same day to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. He died on 4 June and was buried the following day in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row F, Grave No. 1) with the Canadian chaplain R. K. Lambert presiding.³⁷

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.³⁸ Arthur was one of 194 injured admitted to No. 1. CCCS on 3 June 1918. In total, over 4,000 soldiers admitted to this CCCS in the month of June, 82 died.³⁹

The CCCS chaplain sent a letter to Arthur's mother to notify her of her son's death.⁴⁰ She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.⁴¹

Arthur was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).⁴²

Arthur's mother lost two sons in the Great War. Andrew, the second youngest of her surviving children lost his life nine months before Arthur. Andrew had married Annie Gibson (born in Wokingham Berkshire in about 1889)⁴³ on 4 July 1910 in Woodford, near Thrapston in Northamptonshire.⁴⁴ In the spring of 1911, Andrew, a shoe leveller, and Annie were living at 19 Meeting Lane in Irthlingborough.⁴⁵ Annie was just days away from the birth of their first child—their daughter, Grace Lily, was born on 6 April in Irthlingborough.

Andrew, still in the boot trade, enlisted in Northampton in February 1917—five months after his brother Arthur.⁴⁶ He was 27 years old and was living at 12 Addington Road in Irthlingborough. He went to France in July 1917 and joined the 7th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) (regimental numbers 72097 and 39843).

At the beginning of September 1917, Andrew's battalion was station near Oudezeele, northwest of Lille in France. On 20 September, it marched to Poperinghe, 20 kilometres away, just across the border into Belgium. Then on 23 May it moved again—this time about 12 kilometres to the east to Ypres. The battalion had been engaged in training activities, but on 24 May it relieved the 2/6th Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment and was holding front line trenches. On 26 May it attacked on "a two Company frontage." Andrew, in "A" Company was in the first wave to attack. The battalion attained all its objectives in spite of heavy enemy counter attacks and managed to hold the positions captured on 26 May until it was relieved on 28 May.⁴⁷ Andrew may have been wounded during the offensive on 26 May because he was declared missing. Later, for official purposes, he was "regarded as having died on or slightly after 26.9.17."⁴⁸ He is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery (Plot III, Row C, Grave 11). After the war, his wife was living on High Street in Woodford and, in 1919, she remarried, marrying John W. Eaton in Thrapston.⁴⁹ Twenty years later, they were living at Ferrywell, High Street in Thrapston.⁵⁰

Arthur's remaining nine siblings survived the war.

Eliza married Herbert Marshall in 1893 near Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. In 1911, she and Herbert, a gas works stoker, and their six children were living at 52 Queen Street in Irthlingborough. After the war, they were at the same address.⁵¹ Herbert died in 1930⁵² and, in 1936, Eliza remarried,⁵³ but her second husband, James I. Edis, died early in 1939. Later that year, Eliza was living with her daughter and her brother, Walter, at 52 Queen Street.⁵⁴

Walter was single when he was living with his sister and niece in 1939.⁵⁵ He was a heavy work labourer. He died in 1952.⁵⁶

Rebecca also never married. In 1911, she was a grocer and living at 22 High Street West in Irthlingborough.⁵⁷ By 1939, Rebecca, then perhaps known as Elizabeth, had moved to 41 High Street West and had continued to work in retail as a general store shopkeeper.⁵⁸ She died in on 7 October 1946 at the Rushden House Sanitorium in Rushen—just a few miles from Irthlingborough.⁵⁹

In 1911, **Edward** married Elizabeth Waite⁶⁰ and, in 1939, they were living at 55 High Street West with their three children—Hetty L. (born in 1913), Olive M. (born in 1915) and Arthur E. E. (born in 1920 and probably named after his late uncle).⁶¹ He probably died in 1953.⁶²

May was a barmaid when she married George Cave Lay in 1907. In 1911, she and George were the licensed victuallers of the Cow and Hare in Bottisham, near Lode in Cambridgeshire. May's sister Daisy, age 17, was living with them and helping in the public house. After the war, they were at 19 Rigsbygate Street in Bury St Edmund, Suffolk,⁶³ which was probably the Falcon Hotel.⁶⁴ In 1939, May was a widow—George had died in 1931—living at 55 Victoria Street in Bury St Edmunds.⁶⁵ She died in 1948.⁶⁶

In 1911, **John** with living with his family and was working as an ironstone labourer.⁶⁷ He married Susan E Bollard in 1937⁶⁸ and, in 1939, they were living at 48 Allen Road in Irthlingborough where John was an ironstone quarry worker.⁶⁹ John died in 1966.⁷⁰

In 1901, **Emily**, was living with her family.⁷¹ Ten years later, she was probably working as a house porter and maid at Christ's Hospital School in Hertford, Hertfordshire.⁷² After the war, she was living at The Oaks in Woking, Surrey.⁷³

Ellen was living with the family in 1911 and working in the closing department in the boot trade. In 1916, she married William V Brown⁷⁴ and after the war was living at The Elms, in Irthlingborough.

In 1911, **Daisy** was living with, and helping, her sister May and her husband at the Cow and Hare in Lode, Cambridgeshire. Seven years later, she married Oscar C. Halfpenny in Chesterton, Cambridgeshire. In 1939, she and Oscar were hotel proprietors at the Salisbury Hotel at 76 Tenison Road in Cambridge.⁷⁵

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¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 June 2018) entry for Bugby, Arthur Houghton, Registration district: Wellingborough, Volume 03B, Page 132

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⁸ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 June 2018), entry for Elizabeth R. Bugby, Schedule number: 22, Sub-schedule Number: 1, Enumeration district: RJFB, Registration district: 166-2

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¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 June 2018) entry for Bugby, Rosie Ellen, Registration district: Wellingborough, Volume 03B, Page 138

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¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 June 2018) entry for Bugby, Violet Lily, Registration district: Wellingborough, Volume 03B, Page 153

¹⁵ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 July 2018), entry for Walter J Bugby, Ref: RG101/6114C/009/19, Letter code: RJFD

¹⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 June 2018) entry for Bugby, Isaac, Registration district: Wellingborough, Volume 03B, Page 142; "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 22 June 2018) entry for Bugby, Jacob, Registration district: Wellingborough, Volume 03B, Page 142

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³⁹ “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)

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⁴⁴ “British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 22 June 2018), entry for Andrew Bugby. Unless otherwise stated, all information about Andrew’s military service comes from this source.

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