

Dinton

Men Who Served & Survived



Lest we Forget

World War I



73751 PRIVATE

ARTHUR JAMES STACEY

DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

Arthur James STACEY

Arthur James Stacey was born on 25th July, 1900 at Dinton, Wiltshire to parents George & Elizabeth Annie Stacey (nee Mullins). Arthur's birth was registered in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire in the September quarter of 1900. Arthur's parents had married in 1887 at St. Mary's Church, Dinton, Wiltshire & their marriage had been registered in the September quarter, 1887.



Dinton Cottage where Arthur James Stacey was born in 1900

The 1901 Census recorded Arthur Stacey as a 6 month old, living with his family at Upper Hindon Road, Dinton, Wiltshire in a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were recorded as George Stacey (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 39, born Fovant) & Annie Stacey (aged 38, born Teffont Magna). Arthur was the youngest of 3 children listed on this Census, all born at Dinton – Ethel (aged 12) & Walter (aged 6).

The 1911 Census recorded Arthur Stacey as a 10 year old attending School, living with his family in a 3 roomed dwelling at Hindon Road, Dinton. His parents were listed as George Stacey (Labourer on a Farm, aged 48) & Annie Stacey (aged 48). George & Annie had been married for 23 years & had 3 children – all still living. There were 3 children listed in the household in this Census – Ethel Stacey (General Servant – Domestic, aged 22), Walter (Farm Labourer, aged 16) & Arthur.

The 1914 School Log Book for Dinton School C. of E. listed on 28th April that Arthur Stacey and Muriel Whitmarsh had passed their Labour Certificate Exam.

Ethel E. Stacey, sister of Arthur & Walter, died in 1914 from epilepsy, aged 27. Her death was registered in the September quarter, 1914 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

At the age of 14, Arthur Stacey was working at the brickworks in Dinton turning over 15,000 bricks to dry in the air before being fired.

Arthur James Stacey was conscripted into the Army on 25th July, 1918, at the age of 18 years. He was attached to the 1st Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment & was given the regiment number of 73751. Pte Arthur Stacey was called up for Service on 7th August, 1918.

According to information told to his son Andrew Stacey: "Arthur Stacey was camped at Cromer – possibly Muckleburgh Camp. He was fed frozen Australian rabbit morning, noon and night. He had apparently shot rabbit for the table before the War & he always said he used two cartridges to get the rabbit for the master, but of course the other rabbit went home for the family. The Regiment was allocated new duties with some soldiers being sent to Russia

as part of the intervention force & recruits for this were chosen by starting at the top of the alphabet with the "A" surnames taken first & ending with the letter "R". The Occupation duties started at the opposite end of the alphabet & ended at the "T"s. The soldiers' surnames starting with "S" stayed on the home front. Pte Stacey became a very good shot on the shooting range & was favourite for the Regimental Championships. His Sergeant Major put 10s on him to win, but as he would have gone to France early as a sniper, he put a couple wide! Not very heroic, maybe, but his brother had trotted off and his father was not getting much as a dairyman- only having milk on Sundays. With his sister having died & his mother blind from diabetes Arthur probably thought this would be best for the family."

Pte Arthur Stacey did not serve Overseas on Active Service. He was transferred to Reserves & demobilized on 9th December, 1919. According to the Certificate of Transfer to Reserve on Demobilization, Pte Arthur James Stacey had not been awarded any medals or decorations during his present engagement.

Arthur Stacey was mentioned in several articles during the 1930's for his sporting results in Cricket & Billiards.



Arthur James Stacey – Photo taken from Cricket Team late 1930's
(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Arthur Stacey married Muriel Martin at Holy Trinity Church, Bridgwater, Somerset on 22nd September, 1934. Arthur was under gardener for Captain Chamberlain at Hyde's House & Muriel was the Child's Maid for Daphne & Diane Chamberlain & would accompany the family when they summered in Balmoral.

Newspaper Article:

Cricketer Weds

Marriage of Mr A. Stacey and Miss M. E. Martin

The marriage took place at Holy Trinity, Bridgwater, on Saturday, of Mr Arthur Stacey, second son of Mr George Stacey, of Dinton, and Miss Muriel E. Martin, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. H. Martin, of 8 Kingscliffe-terrace, Bridgwater. The bridegroom is hon. secretary of the Dinton Horticultural Society, and a playing member of the local Cricket Club. The Rev. E. D. Croix officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore an ankle-length dress of green georgette, with embroideries, hat gloves and shoes to match. She wore a string of pearls and a pearl brooch, and carried a showed bouquet of pale pink roses and white heather. The two bridesmaids – the Misses J. Scoins (cousin of the bride) and M. Dunkerton (friend of the bride) – wore ankle-length dresses of salmon pink silver, silver shoes, and wreaths of pink and green forget-me-nots. They carried Victorian posies of pink carnations, and wore coral and pearl necklaces, the gifts if the bridegroom. Mr W. Stacey (brother of the bridegroom) was "best man".

After the ceremony a reception was held at Tudor Café, Bridgwater. The couple left later for a honeymoon at Bournemouth, the bride travelling in a costume of black and white tweed, green hat, and a blouse to match. Among the presents were a hand-painted tea service from the bride's former employers, dinner and breakfast services from the bridegroom's employers and a set of carvers from Dinton Cricket Club. (Western Gazette – 28 September, 1934)

Arthur Stacey was on the Dinton, Baverstock and Hurdcott Horticultural Society Committee. He is mentioned in a 1936 newspaper article as being one of the elected Committee members of the Dinton, Baverstock and Hurdcott Horticultural Society.

A newspaper article for the British Legion Show at Hindon in 1938 lists Mr A. Stacey as one of the two judges of the fruit, flower & vegetable show. Arthur Stacey was listed as being gardener to Mrs Engleheart at Dinton in the article. Previously Arthur Stacey was gardener for the Rev. George Herbert Engleheart who had died on 15th March, 1936 & has been referred to as "the Daffodil Maker" & "Father of the modern daffodil". Rev Engleheart had moved to Dinton in 1901 after purchasing the property Little Clarendon. He was universally known among horticulturalists for his breeding of daffodils & he is said to be responsible for many of our most beautiful daffodils. Rev Engleheart's failed attempts of daffodils were planted in the woods to the north by Arthur Stacey.

Arthur Stacey is mentioned in a 1939 Newspaper article on the annual Flower Show of the Dinton, Baverstock and Hurdcott Horticultural Society as being one of the Committee members. At the 1939 Flower Show, Arthur Stacey gained 3rd place for his Gladioli in the Flower section; 3rd place for his Roses and 2nd place for his Gladioli in the Open Section of the Show.

In the newspaper article for the 1947 Dinton Flower Show, Arthur Stacey was a prize winner for his beetroot.

Arthur Stacey was an Air Ministry Constable after World War 2.



Arthur James Stacey at the age of 75 years

(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Arthur James Stacey died on 23rd September, 1984 at the age of 84. His death was registered in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire. Muriel Evelyn Stacey died in July, 1990 at the age of 79.