

# Connected to Durrington



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



**3/9972 PRIVATE**

**B. E. HOPGOOD**

**WILTSHIRE REGIMENT**

**2ND OCTOBER, 1915 AGE 18**

*“They Shall Run  
And Not Be Weary  
And They Shall Walk  
And Not Faint.” At Rest*

## **Bertram Edward HOPGOOD**

Bertram Edward Hopgood was born at Bulford in 1897 to parents Edwin & Annie Hopgood (nee Kinsman). Bertram's birth was registered in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire in the September quarter of 1897. Edwin J. Hopgood had married Annie Kinsman in 1877 at St. Leonard's Church, Bulford, Wiltshire.

The 1901 Census recorded Bertram E. Hopgood as a 3 year old, living with his family at Lime Kiln, Bulford, Wiltshire in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were recorded as Edwin Hopgood (Carter on Farm, aged 42, born Milston) & Annie Hopgood (aged 41, born Milston). Bertram was one of seven children listed on this Census – Percy (aged 12, born Milston), Kate (aged 11, born Milston), Eva (aged 9, born Milston), Alan (aged 8, born Milston), Frank (aged 6, born Milston) then Bertram E. & Rosa M. (aged 10 months, born Bulford). Also boarding with the family was 65 year old Widower William Kingsman (General Labourer, born Bulford).

The 1911 Census recorded Bertram Hopgood as a 13 year old, at school, living with his family at 246 The Hill, Milston, which was a 5 roomed dwelling. (The address on the Household Schedule has head of House as Joseph E. Hopgood, 246 Lime Kiln, Bulford, Salisbury). His parents were listed as Edwin Hopgood (Carter on Farm, aged 52) & Annie Hopgood (aged 51). Edwin & Annie Hopgood had been married for 34 years, having had a total of 12 children, 2 children having died. Bertram was one of five children listed on this Census – Percy (Carter on Farm, aged 22), Frank (Labourer on Farm, aged 16), then Bertram, Rosa (at School, aged 10) & Winifred (at School, aged 5, born Bulford). Also listed was Hilda Hopgood (Grandchild of Edwin & Annie, at school, aged 11, born Milston) & William Kinsman (Annie Hopgood's father, Widower, aged 74, Labourer).

Bertram Edward Hopgood enlisted at Devizes with the Wiltshire Regiment. His place of residence was recorded as Durrington. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 3/9972.

The Medal Index Card of Pte B. E. Hopgood shows that he first entered a Theatre of War in France on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1915.

Private Bertram Edward Hopgood died of wounds on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1915. He was attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment at the time of his death.

Private Bertram Edward Hopgood was buried in Chocques Military Cemetery, France - Grave Plot I. E. 115. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Pte B. E. Hopgood, 3/9972, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., Wiltshire Regiment, as the son of E. J. Hopgood, of The Bungalow, Brigenerston, Durrington, Salisbury.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment**

#### **1914**

The 2nd Battalion mobilized on the 29th July 1914 when the 'Alarm in Fortress' was sounded in Gibraltar, sailing for England a month later. They landed at Zeebrugge as part of the 7th Division in October. Their initial deployment to defend Antwerp was abandoned after it was captured by the Germans. They redeployed to a position East of Ypres and very soon were in action at Reutel near Ypres. This first action for many was also their last as the battalion lost 450 men and 18 officers captured, 76 men and 7 officers were killed and 229 wounded after being assaulted by two complete German Regiments. After many other actions they ended 1914 in the line at Fleurbaix.

#### **1915**

The 2nd Battalion started 1915 in the Fleurbaix area remaining in the waterlogged trenches when they were relieved by the Canadians in March. They were removed from the line to prepare for a major assault at Neuve Chapelle which started on the 9th of March. By the 14th March the battalion had suffered nearly 400 casualties. After a few days rest they returned to the line at Laventie where they resumed trench warfare. In May the battalion took part in the battle of Festubert where they suffered 158 casualties for one mile of ground taken. This was followed by a rest period in the Bethune area where they were reinforced. In June they were one of the leading

battalions in the attack at Givenchy where after taking significant casualties the operation was cancelled. This was followed by many months of trench warfare in different sectors leading up to the Battle of Loos in September where their casualty figure was 400. Rest and reorganisation followed and in early December they were again redeployed to another Division, the 30th ending the year at Autheux.

### War Diary – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

◆27<sup>th</sup> September, 1915

Location – France, Trenches

*Early in the morning the Comdg Offr Major CD Forsyth was given to understand that the 1/4th Cameron Highrs needed immediate support, and at once ordered the Battn across the open to reinforce the 1/4th Cameron Highrs. This was done under heavy rifle & machine gun fire, and the Battn again suffered heavy losses. Capt EC Mudge & Capt WM Geddes were killed, also 2/Lt E Schultz, who had got safely into the 1/4th Cameron Highrs trench got out again to give directions to some men coming on behind and was shot in the head. Major CG Forsyth was wounded in the thigh, but remained in command. The morning was misty, and several men of each Coy took the wrong direction. These Major CG Forsyth collected in the trench we had vacated. In these positions the Battn remained until dusk, when it was possible to reorganise. The men collected by Major CG Forsyth in the trench by HULLOCH ROAD were ordered to remain. The men who had succeeded in reaching the trench held by the 1/4th Cameron Highrs were collected together in companies and placed on the Camerons left.*

◆28<sup>th</sup> September, 1915

Location – France, Trenches

*We remained in our positions all day with nothing to report other than fairly heavy artillery duels. The nights became cold and wet.*

◆29<sup>th</sup> September, 1915

Location – France, Trenches

*The enemy heavily bombards their original front line, which was occupied by the 2/Bn Yorkshire Regt, otherwise the day passes quickly. About 9pm we were relieved by the Kings Liverpools ( [blank in diary] Bn) and occupied the original British front line on the North of HULLOCH ROAD. Major CG Forsyth was forced to go to the Field Ambulance and Lieut PP Legg assumes command. About midnight the Battn was ordered to move up the HULLOCH ROAD to help repulse a counter attack. The Battn had only moved a few hundred yards when it was ordered to return to its position in old British firing line.*

◆30<sup>th</sup> September, 1915

Location – France, Trenches

*This day passed quietly without event until about 11pm when the Battn were relieved by Brigade and marched to LE PREOL.*

◆1<sup>st</sup> October, 1915

Location – France, Le Preol

*Battalion occupied billets in LE PREOL resting.*

◆2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1915

Location – France, Le Preol

*The men spent the day cleaning up and refitting. Capt MC Heenan 1st Leinster Regt arrived and took over command from Lt PP Legg. 2/Lt WS Shepherd assumed duties of adjt vice Major CG Forsyth, wounded.*

*(Information on 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion & War Diary from [The Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire & Wiltshire)*

Private Bertram Edward Hopgood was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



B. Hopgood is remembered in the Casualties of WW1 Memorial Book from the Diocese of Salisbury for the parish of Milston, Wiltshire.

Bertram Hopgood is remembered on the World War 1 plaque in the parish church of St. Mary, Milston, Wiltshire. The date of death on the plaque for Bertram Hopgood shows 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1915.



**World War 1 Plaque in St. Mary's Church, Milston**



### **Chocques Military Cemetery, France**

Chocques is 4 kilometres north-west of Bethune on the road to Lillers.

Chocques was occupied by Commonwealth forces from the late autumn of 1914 to the end of the war. The village was at one time the headquarters of I Corps and from January 1915 to April 1918, No.1 Casualty Clearing Station was posted there. Most of the burials from this period are of casualties who died at the clearing station from wounds received at the Bethune front.

From April to September 1918, during the German advance on this front, the burials were carried out by field ambulances, divisions and fighting units. The groups of graves of a single Royal Artillery brigade in Plot II, Row A, and of the 2nd Seaforths in II D, and III A, are significant of the casualties of the 4th Division at that time. The big collective grave in VI A contains the remains of 29 soldiers of the 4th King's Liverpool Regiment killed in a troop

train in April 1918. The stone memorial in IA is placed behind the graves of eight men of the 3rd Squadron, RFC, killed in a bomb explosion on the aerodrome at Merville in March 1915.

After the Armistice it was found necessary to concentrate into this Cemetery (Plots II, III, IV and VI) a large number of isolated graves plus some small graveyards from the country between Chocques and Bethune. Among the small cemeteries thus removed were:-

ANNEZIN Communal Cemetery Extension, a short distance West of Bethune, made by the 3rd Division in April, 1918, which contained 38 graves.

LES HARISOIRS British Cemetery, Mont-Bernenchon, 4.8 Kms North East of Chocques, made by the 4th Division in April, 1918, which contained 27 graves.

CANAL Cemetery, Les Harisoirs, made by the 4th Division in April, 1918, which contained 17 graves.

BOIS-DES-MONTAGNES British Cemetery, Vaudricourt, 3.2 Kms South West of Bethune, made by the 46th Field Ambulance in September, 1915, which contained 8 graves.

Chocques Military Cemetery now contains 1,801 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 134 of them unidentified. There are also 82 German war graves, 47 being unidentified.

*(Information & photo 1 from CWGC)*



**Chocques Military Cemetery, France**





**Chocques Military Cemetery, France** (*Photos courtesy of David Milborrow*)



Photo of Pte B. E. Hopgood's CWGC headstone in Chocques Military Cemetery, France.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*

