
Arthur Thomas BETTS (1889-1915)

Arthur Thomas Betts' connection to South Lopham is by birth and residency.

Arthur Thomas BETTS, son of Thomas BETTS (c. 1859-c. 1904) and Hannah Wright DOWNING (1858-c. 1932), was born on 14 November 1889 in South Lopham, Norfolk.¹ He was baptised on 3 January 1890 in South Lopham, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. J F BATEMAN, Rector.²

In the 1891 Census (5 Apr 1891) he appeared at Redgrave Road in South Lopham - 1, living with parents Thomas (32, farmer and coal dealer) and Hannah (32), and siblings Margaret M (4, scholar), Elsie Jane (3).³

Arthur appeared in the 1901 Census at Rectory Road in South Lopham - 11, scholar, living with parents Thomas (42, threshing engine driver) and Hannah (42), and siblings Margaret M (14), Elsie Jane (13), Bessie Hannah (9, scholar), Samuel Richard (8, scholar), Thomas William (6, scholar), Henry Albert (3) and Kate Thirza (1).⁴

On 2 Apr 1911, (the 1911 Census), he was living at Marlborough Lines in Aldershot, Hampshire - 21, private in the 1st Norfolk Regiment [Bandsman, 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, Reg. No. 7016].⁵

Arthur died on 9 March 1915 in France. He is buried/commemorated at Ramparts Cemetery, Lille Gate.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave registration entry for Arthur is "BETTS, Bandsmn. Arthur Thomas, 7016. 1st Bn. Norfolk Regt. 9th March 1915. Age 25. Son of Thomas and Hannah Betts, of Corner Farm, South Lopham, Diss, Norfolk. E. 15."

Arthur appears on the War Memorial in South Lopham.

On 8 March 1918 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal:

IN MEMORIAM.

BETTS. - Died from wounds received in action on March 9th, 1915, Arthur Thomas, eldest son of the late Thomas and Mrs. Betts of South Lopham, aged 25 years.

No full army service record has been found for Arthur.

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1889 Q4 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 247. Cit. Date: Q4 1889.
2. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 3 January 1890.
3. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 1548 Piece 126 Page 6 Schedule 42. Cit. Date: 5 April 1891.
4. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 21 Page 5 Schedule 35. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
5. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN6263 RD109 SD2 ED13 SN9999. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.