



**SERGEANT ERNEST JAMES STOWE**

1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment

Service number 40164

Killed 26<sup>th</sup> July 1917 on the front line around Zouave Wood Sector a few days before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres

Commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres but may be buried with two other comrades at Perth Cemetery (China Wall)

Born at Great Brington in 1881 and baptised on Christmas Day 1881

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Parents: Arthur and Elizabeth (nee Johnson) Stowe

On 1891 Census, residence note states 'High Wood'

Ernest was the third youngest of six children, having 3 brothers and 2 sisters. By the 1891 census his mother was a widow. He married Harriett Alice Tarpley in October 1900. His known living descendant is Margaret Ceely (nee Stowe) who is his great-granddaughter.

Ernest attended the Infant School and Brington School, register no. 420, from 1887 to 1893

He was promoted Acting Sergeant from Corporal in 1915 and to Sergeant, in the field in March 1917

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 1917 the battalion took part in the attack on the German trench system at Moislains Ridge, taking high casualties of 7 officers and 235 other ranks. Ernest was promoted in the field to Sergeant two weeks later. By July the battalion had moved up to Belgium in preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres. A few days before the attack the battalion were in the front line around the Zouave Wood Sector and the entry in Battalion War Diary for the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1917 reads 'the battalion continued to hold the line under heavy shellfire'. Ernest was one of four men killed that day during the bombardment, his body was never recovered or identified and his name is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres, although he could be buried in an unknown grave at Perth Cemetery (China Wall) a couple of miles east of Ypres on the Menin Road, as two of the other men killed that day are buried there.

His widow was advised of her husband's death by telegram on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and was awarded a weekly pension of 33s. 6d for herself and five children from 11<sup>th</sup> February 1918. In addition Harriett was sent his unused pay of £17.0s.0d. in November 1919.



Ernest Stowe memorial in Althorp Park

| STOWE                        |            | 1st Coy. |         | 397     |                                      |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Ernest J.                    |            |          |         |         |                                      |
| Model                        | Regt       | Comp     | Platoon | Company | Notes                                |
| Victory                      | K/1/101/26 | 1st      | 1st     | 1st     | 1st                                  |
| Enlistment                   | K/1/101/26 | 1st      | 1st     | 1st     | Rank awarded/awd. 1st Lt. K/1/101/26 |
| 15 Star                      | K/1/101/26 | 1st      | 1st     | 1st     | 327                                  |
| Theatre of War first term in |            |          |         |         |                                      |
| 20/10/1917                   |            |          |         |         |                                      |
| Date of entry theatre        |            |          |         |         |                                      |
| 20/10/1917                   |            |          |         |         |                                      |
| 2261/26/2017                 |            |          |         |         |                                      |
| K/1/101/26                   |            |          |         |         |                                      |

Ernest Stowe war record