



Quenington (St Swithin) Cemetery,
Gloucestershire

Private Thomas Edward James REDDING

Service Number TR8/9362

BACKGROUND

Thomas was born in the December Quarter of 1898 in Quenington, Near Fairford, Gloucestershire to George **REDDING** and Sarah Annie **BEESELEY**. His siblings were Emily Elizabeth, Fanny Maria M, and Gladys Ada.

MILITARY SERVICE

Regrettably, it would appear that his service records did not survive. However, it is understood he enlisted in Cirencester, Gloucestershire and served in the 7th (Reserve) Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment, which came into being at Wyke Regis, a village in Dorset, on 21 November 1914, and was properly formed on 30 January 1915. It carried out its primary task of training reserves. The 7th Battalion, then at Bovington Camp (a British Army military base in Dorset), disbanded in August 1916. On 25 August 1916 460 men were returned to 3rd Dorsets and another 215 were sent to 35th Training Reserve Battalion (TRB) where Thomas served. On 1 April 1917 the 35th TRB was integrated into the 53rd TRB of the Devonshire Regiment, cutting ties to the Dorset Regiment.

Thomas's theatre of war was home in UK; therefore he was not eligible for war medals, as he had no overseas service.

DEATH AND BURIAL

It was on 13 April 1917 that Thomas died in the Military Hospital at Compton Chamberlayne in South Wiltshire. He was buried on the boundary of the Quenington (St Swithin Church) Cemetery, Gloucestershire on 19 April. The Cemetery is situated at the west end of the village, and its associated church is located on the Southern edge of the village. Quenington Cemetery was opened soon after the turn of the last century when St Swithin's Churchyard became full.

At the time of his death, his mother's address was given as Upper End, Fulbrook, Burford, Gloucestershire. Later, when she provided details for his Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) memorial, her address was given as Hampton Fields, Poulton, Gloucestershire.



The CWGC Memorial inscription reads:

TR8/9362 PRIVATE
T. E. J. REDDING
DORSETSHIRE REGIMENT
13TH APRIL 1917 AGE 18

GONE NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN
R. I. P.

COMMEMORATION

As a native of Quenington, and having been buried there, it is surprising that Thomas is not commemorated on the Quenington War Memorial. However, it transpires that his name appears on the War Memorial Plaque in St Mary the Virgin Church, Meysey Hampton, which is situated 1 mile from Hampton Fields where his mother was living (as stated earlier).



Author: Baden Russell (August 2015)