

Private James (Jim) Sucksmith (3rd Nov 1894 – 1949)

Brother James (Jim) Sucksmith also served in WW1 as the newspaper reports testify. The fact that he was in Salonica, Greece, suggests that he was the Private James Sucksmith serving with the Coldstream Guards.

Campaign: —	1914	(A) Where decoration was earned.		
		(B) Present situation.		
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)
(A) SUCKSMITH	B.G.G.	Pte	4779	MEDICAL ROLL VI 69/10/13 38
(B) JAMES	"	"	"	B. H. H. STAR 14 6.9/11 330
Action taken				
clasp 4 6368. 668 R.I.V. 2095/c. 6.3.22.				
QUALIFYING DATE 30.8.14				
(6 34 46) W231—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608				[OVER

He appears to have volunteered in 1914 and to have survived WW1. His decorations were awarded on 20 - 12 - 18 according to the document below and “put into Stock” as all survivors and prisoners of war medals were. But another date 6 – 3 - 22 suggests that he got his clasp then.

(To be retained in deposit.)

COLDSTREAM GUARDS, Regiment or Corps when Decoration was earned.

330. ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order 350 of 1919. 330

To be left blank.	On Date of Disembarkation.		NAME	Date of Disembarkation.	REMARKS.	Record of disposal of decoration.	To be left blank for use in War Office.
	Regtl. No.	Rank					
	8019	Pte.	STUNNELL	G.	13-8-14. K.in A. 7-9-14.	B. 22-2-19	
1914 Army Order 253	1717	C.S.M.	STURGES	R.	13-8-14. Prisoner of War.	B. 21-4-19. X. 24.5/6. 12-1-20	
	1149	Pte.	STURGES	A.	13-8-14. K.in A. 6-9-14.	B. 21/2/19	
	6434	"	STYLES	J.	12-8-14. K.in A. 14-9-14.	B. 11-4-19	
	4778	"	SUCKSMITH	J.	30-8-14.	C. 20-12-18. 6.3.22. And 4.6.22.	
	6585	"	SULLIVAN	J.	12-8-14. K.in A. 1-9-14.	B. 4-4-19	
1914 Army Order 253	6457	"	SULLY	R.J.	12-8-14.	C. 20-12-18. 6.3.22. 12-1-20	
	7982	"	SULLY	W.H.	12-8-14. Prisoner of War.	C. 20-12-18	
	6559	"	SUMMERS	A.H.	12-8-14. K.in A. 9-10-15.	B. 3-2-19	
	5006	"	SUNNER	G.H.	13-8-14. Dis. Phy. Unfit. 23-5-15.	B. 2-2-19. (M. 2.31/1.2.20) 4.6.22	
	5677	"	SUNNERS	J.	12-8-14.	C. 20-12-18	
	10811	"	SURGEY	B.	11-9-14.	C. 20-12-18	

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

Place for signature

Private Leonard Sucksmith (7th May 1898 – 23rd November 1920)

From the documents below it would appear that Leonard Sucksmith enlisted with the South Wales Borderers on 24th June 1916 just before his brothers Aaron and Walter lost their lives. So at that time the family had four sons serving in WW1 as brother James was also with the Coldstream Guards in Salonica, Greece. From this British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Card Leonard Sucksmith would seem to have been in a Lincolnshire Regiment and then a Monmouth Regiment.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
SUCKSMITH Leonard	Linc R	Pte	203483
	Monmouth R		260076
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	7/4/105 B3	824	
BRITISH	- do -	do	
STAR			
SWB List 5/2176/2			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

ARMY FORM W. 5102.

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

THE MONMOUTHSHIRE. REGIMENT OR CORPS.

824 (b)

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and ~~or~~ British War Medal granted under Army Orders 301 & 266 of 1919. of 19 .

Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.	NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. Nos. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations	REMARKS
Regtl. No. Rank					(a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	
260076 Pte	SUCKSMITH, Leonard.	203483, Linc R, Pte. 260076, Mon R.				INFANTRY BASE DEPOT, INFANTRY BASE DEPOT, ATT 1/S. WALES BORD. ATT 1/S. WALES BORD. ATT 1/S. WALES BORD. ATT 1/S. WALES BORD. ATT 1/S. WALES BORD.
260076 Pte	THOMPSON, Tom.	203490, Linc R, Pte.				INFANTRY BASE DEPOT.

SOUTH WALES BORDERERS. (T.F.)

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the "WAR BADGE."

UNDER PARA 2 OF ARMY ORDER 29 OF 1919.

91.

* Note—In returning this form, care should be taken that "A.G. 10," 201, Great Portland Street, 27, Wyndham Street, London, W.C. 2, is inserted on the envelope.

Regtl. No.	Rank	Name (in full)	Unit discharged from	No. of Badge and Certificate (To be completed at War Office)	Date of:—		Cause of Discharge (Wounds or Sickness and para. of K.R.)	Whether served Overseas (Yes or No)
					Enlistment	Discharge		
227134	Pte	Foulds, William	255 T.F. Depot	B/300 789	1-4-16	15-8-19	392 (xvi) K.R. 29 years	Yes.
227872	L/Cpl	Limmer, John	Do.		2-11-15	13-5-18	Do. 24 years	"
226665	Pte	Horler, William	Do.	B 300, 790	11-5-15	10-12-17	Do. 41 7/12.	"
230227	"	Marshall, Thomas J.	Do.	B 300, 791	30-5-17	17-11-17	Do. 28 6/12.	No.
260076	"	Sucksmith, Leonard	Depot S.W.B.	B 300, 792	24-6-16	12-8-19	Do. 22 years	Yes.
265168	"	Clarke, Charles E.	255 T.F. Depot	B 300, 793	17-6-12	17-2-19	392 (xvia) K.R. 26 4/12.	"
266126	"	WILLIAMS, Harold	234 T.F. Depot	B 300, 794	20-7-15	9-8-19	392 (xvi) K.R. 23 8/12.	"
266725	"	Miles, Harry	Do.	B 300, 795	9-12-15	26-8-19	Do. 27 5/12.	"
267285	"	Willmott, Joseph J.D	Do.	B 300, 796	23-11-14	16-9-18	Do. 22 3/12.	No.
267572	Sgt	Weeks, John	Do.	B 300, 797	16-2-12	25-10-18	Do. 25 6/12.	Yes.
268278	Pte	Mather, James	Do.	B 300, 798	15-12-14	14-4-19	392 (xvia) K.R. 23 4/12.	"
290286	"	Mc Cutcheon, W.D.	Do.	B/300 799	21-5-14	6-4-19	Do. 21 11/12.	"

I certify that the particulars furnished hereon are correct.

Place SHREWSBURY Date 17 SEP 1919

I certify that Badges and Certificates, numbered as above, have been issued to the individuals concerned.

Place _____ Date _____

Signature and Rank of Officer certifying issue.

According to the above document Leonard saw service overseas but there is no indication as to where. He was discharged on the 12th August 1919. The reason for his discharge as recorded above "392 (xvi) K.R." means that under King's Regulations paragraph 392 Leonard was "No longer physically fit for service". Did he then return home to his parents in Lightcliffe and had his brother James (Jim) returned home by then too?

Although there is no indication as to Leonard's exact physical ailment it presumably led to his premature death on 23rd November 1920 aged just twenty two. This also explains why he was buried with a Commonwealth War Grave headstone on 27th November 1920 at St Matthew's Churchyard Lightcliffe in plot G27 next to the plot, G26, where his mother, father and brother John would later be laid to rest. As previously recorded his grandparents' plot, C11, was full.

Just before Leonard died his sister Alice Sucksmith married a "Platelayer" Donald Robertshaw on 18th September 1920 at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Her place of residence was 18 Hill Top, Lightcliffe and his was 13, Woodhead, Hipperholme. Brother John Sucksmith was a witness. Donald and Alice had a daughter Mabel Robertshaw whose birth was registered in Halifax Q1 1921.

In 1925 a Jim Sucksmith married a Enid Cowell Q2 again registration Halifax. A 54 year old Jim Sucksmith's death was registered in Leeds in Q1 1949 which fits with this family's Jim Sucksmith's birth at the end of 1894. His widow Enid Sucksmith appears to have remarried a Fred Kirk - Q2 1950 registration district Calder.

Mother Elizabeth Ann Sucksmith (nee Pratt) died on the 31st July 1931 and was buried on 4th August 1931 in the family grave at St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe. She would miss the marriage of her youngest daughter Margaret Sucksmith to Jack Pearce Whiteley in October 1931 at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe and the birth of a grandson Donald Whiteley - born Q1 1934 registration district Halifax.

Irvine Sucksmith, the youngest member of this family of ten, was born in 1907 and so was probably too young to serve in the Great War. When Irvine married on 31st July 1935 he was a 28 year old "Weaver" living at 25 Hill Top, Lightcliffe. His wife, Anne Bower, was 23 years old and a "Mander". Her father Joe Bower was a "Stuff presser" and they lived at 10 Norwood Terrace, Norwood Green. The rank or profession of Irvine's father William was recorded as simply "Retired". Brother in law Jack Pearce Whiteley was a witness to this marriage in St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe.

Father William Sucksmith died a few months later on 2nd December 1935. He was buried in the family grave, plot G26, at St Matthew's Churchyard on the 5th December 1935.

The last occupant of plot G26 was their eldest son John Sucksmith whose death was registered in Calder Q1 1942. Did he serve in WW1? He died on 5th March 1942 and was buried in the family grave, then described as "full", on 9th March 1942. His age was 55 years old which again fits with his birth on 24th November 1886.

Although Irvine was probably too young to serve in WW1 did he serve in WW2? There is a John Sucksmith born Q2 1945 in the Halifax registration district whose mother's surname is Bower. This is almost certainly Irvine and Anne Bower's son. Irvine died on 13 December 1957. Irvine Sucksmith's probate record reads:-

SUCKSMITH IRVINE of 10 Norwood Terrace Norwood Green Halifax died 13 December 1957 Administration Wakefield 13 February [1958] to Annie Sucksmith widow. Effects £324 17s.

LT. WILLIAM ASPINALL SUCKSMITH (1912 – 1939) is also commemorated at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. He was probably a distant relative of the above family but further research is needed.

There are a number of Sucksmith graves in St Matthe's Churchyard. Read **The Sucksmith family** to find out more.

D.M.Barker
September 2015