

CAPTAIN EDWARD THOMAS CRUMP

Service Number: 66569

Enlisted: Royal Engineers

Born: 19th January 1904

Died: Killed in service 16th January 1941, Aged 36

Memorials: Dunton Bassett War Memorial

St Catherine's Church Memorial

Burbage War Memorial



Edward Crump was born in Hinckley on 19th January 1904. His father, Edward was the Borough Engineer of Hinckley living at 23 Mount Road.



23 Mount Road, Hinckley

After his father's distinguished career in WW1, the family moved to Bristol where his father was the chief Engineer. Edward Jnr was educated in Bristol and followed his father's career as a surveyor working for the Ministry of Health in Bristol.

By the mid-1930's, his parents and sister Phyllis had moved back to the area and lived at Tong Lodge, Burbage, where his father had a private practice as surveyor and architect. Edward followed securing a surveyors appointment with Leicestershire County Council.



Tong Lodge, Church Street

Tom as his friends knew him was popular in sporting circles. He played rugby for Hinckley and even when not playing, he never missed a match and would race up and down the lines urging his team on. As a cricketer, he was an enterprising batsman playing for Hinckley Town.

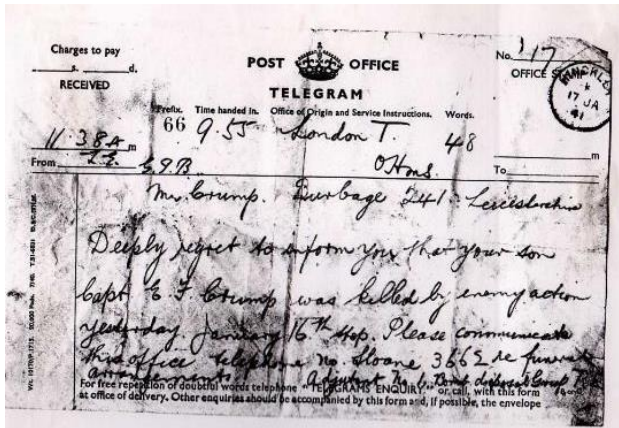
In 1939, he married Miss Elizabeth (Betty) Greenhough of Dunton Bassett where they made their home.



Betty and Edward Crump

He was for some years in the Leicestershire Yeomanry and on the outbreak of war was transferred to the territorial section of the Royal Engineers in which he obtained a commission. He was promoted to the rank of Captain, he trained in bomb disposal with The Bomb Disposal Group Battalion, Royal Engineers based in London. The average life expectancy in bomb disposal was estimated ten to sixteen weeks. From 1939 - 1945, 55 officers and 339 men were killed, and 3 received the George Cross.

At Christmas 1940, Tom visited his family and pregnant wife, Betty. On his return to London, he was killed by enemy action whilst fulfilling his bomb disposal duties on 16th January 1941. for non-combatant gallantry.

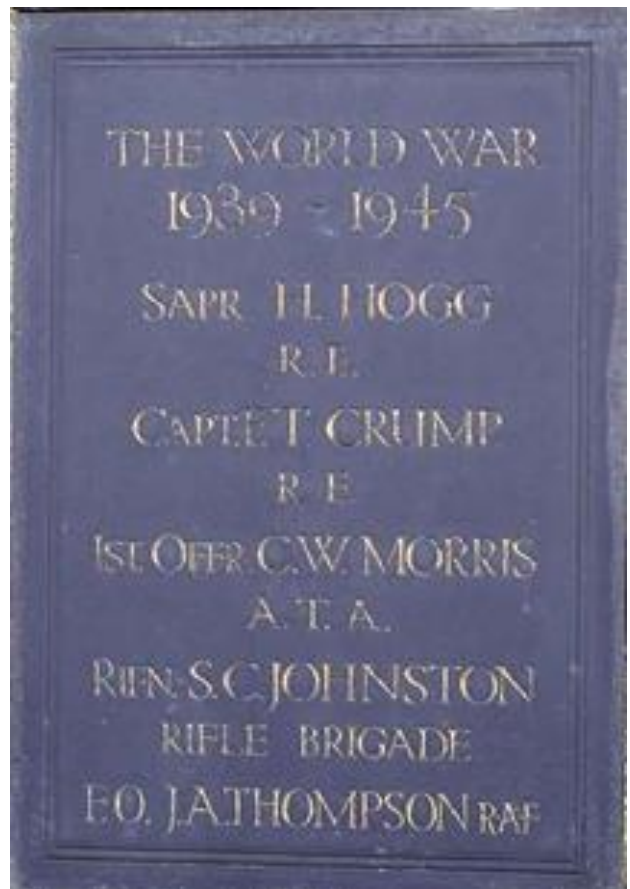


On 26th January 1941 he was posthumously recommended for the award of the British Empire Medal, Military Division.

His body was brought back from London and rested in the Village Church overnight covered with a Union Jack. The funeral took place the next day and interment in Dunton Bassett Churchyard.



Dunton Bassett Graveyard



Dunton Bassett War Memorial

Tom's wife gave birth to a daughter Phoebe the following summer. His wife eventually remarried and had a second family, but they never lost their ties with the Crump family and Phoebe remained close to her grandparents.

Phoebe died in 2005 and was laid to rest with the father she had never known.