

Driver Dennis George Biggs
Royal Army Service Corps
of Church Stretton
Died 15 March 1950, aged 26



Gravestone of Dennis Biggs, Greenhill Cemetery, Church Stretton

Dennis George Biggs was born on 1 April 1923 in Church Stretton. He was the eldest son of eight children of Ernest George Biggs, a Lorry Driver, and Edith Helen nee Carter who were married in Church Stretton in 1923.

Ernest was born in Church Stretton, the son of an Engine Driver and Bricklayer, and lived in the area of Cross Banks, Church Stretton before the construction of the Council Houses. Edith was born in Wistanstow. At the time of the 1911 census Edith was living with her grandparents in Whittingslow, Wistanstow, and by 1921 she was working as a domestic servant in Church Stretton. According to her obituary, Edith worked in domestic service all her life only fully retiring at the age of 83.

After their marriage in 1923 Ernest and Edith had eight children, five sons and three daughters, born between 1923 and 1938. One son died in infancy. Edith and some of the children including Dennis, were living in no 2 Cross Banks Council Houses at the time of the 1939 register, though Ernest does not seem to be listed.

According to his obituary Dennis joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1942 when he would have been 18 or 19 years old. He served as a Driver, as did his younger brother Harold. Presumably their father's work meant they had access to vehicles and could learn to drive.

Dennis was attached to the Eighth Army and served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. By December 1946 Dennis was back at home and the family were now living at 3, Cross Banks. Dennis acted as best man at his brother Harold's wedding on 5 December 1946.

We don't know if Dennis had been wounded during his service, but he died on 15 March 1950. Dennis is buried in Greenhill Cemetery at Church Stretton. He left a will and probate was granted to his mother Edith Ellen Biggs on 13 June. His address was given as 3 Cross Banks and his effects were worth £216 3s 5d.

Dennis is commemorated on the Church Stretton War Memorial. As his death occurred after 1947, he is not included in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database of war dead.

Dennis' parents remained in Church Stretton and moved to Central Avenue where Ernest died in 1970 and Edith died in 1987.



Cross Banks, Church Stretton