



Holt

World War I Casualty Biographies

Hodges, William Edward

William Edward Hodges was the son of William and Susan Hodges and stepson of Albert Jehu Watts and born in Hilperton in 1888. Albert was a carter for the Great Western Railway and lived in The Street, Holt. It has proved difficult to trace the Hodges' family. Susan married Albert Watts, 10 years her junior, in 1897, presumably having been made a widow, but the Hodges prove to be elusive prior to 1901. William is living with her and Albert according to the 1901 census, with his sister Amy (6) and 2 half sisters, Florence and Doris. By 1911 he has left the family home but has temporarily disappeared.

What is certain is that he enlisted at Edmonton, North London, where he was living presumably, as soon as war broke out. He served during the War with 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment. The fact that the regiment is not local to where he was born or enlisted is not out of the ordinary. He was a married man with one son, Edward, having married Jessie Alice Coventry at the Old Church, Edmonton in 1910. [No trace]

He was sent to France on 31st August 1915 and was dead within the month. He died of wounds sustained in battle on 29th September 1915. An officer wrote to Jessie "Your husband was one of the best I had in my company"

He is buried at Lapugnay Military Cemetery, France. Grave I D 39

William Edward Hodges, Private, G/3498, 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment

Resources

Ancestry

Falconer, Jonathan – Names in stone, 2010, Bed and Bolster Publishing 978 0 9563423 17