



Holt

World War I Casualty Biographies

STOKES, Frank Oliver



Frank Oliver Stokes was born between January and March 1886. He was the son of Samuel and Mary Stokes and Samuel was a paliasse maker probably working for Sawtell's.

In 1891 the family was living at The Midlands, Holt and Frank had an elder brother Ernest (6), a younger brother Walter (3) and a new born sister Laura. By 1901 there had been another 5 additions to the family. Maud (9), Gertrude (8), Charles (5), Agnes (3) and Florence (1). And by 1911 Frank was living at The Star with Ernest, Charles and Lionel (8) and worked as a laundry car man. His parents were occupying another house in The Star with Gertrude, Agnes, Amy and Robert (4). Mary was a fecund child bearer.

In the June quarter of 1911 Frank married Ellen (Nellie) Coles. She was a brave girl if she went to live with him and his brothers. One of their two children might have been born out of wedlock in 1910

By November 1915 Frank had been invalided home from Gallipoli. He was discharged to resume duties in June 1916 and sent to France where he was killed in action on 9th October 1916.

Private F. Stokes

On 20th instant, Mrs. Frank Stokes, The Midlands, Holt, received the sad intelligence from the War Office that her husband had been killed in action on the 9th, "somewhere in France".

Pte Frank Stokes was much respected in the village and the deepest sympathy is expressed on all hands with his sorrowing relatives. He was the son of Mr. Samuel Stokes, formerly of Holt, now of Trowbridge. Before enlistment he was employed at Messrs. Beaven's leather works where he was very popular with his fellow workers. He joined the Army on April 22nd 1915, enlisting in the Wilts Regiment. Just after the landing at Suvla Bay he was sent with a draft to reinforce his regiment, but his stay there was rather short, for on November 26th in the same year he was invalided home with frostbitten feet. The next eight months were spent in Hospital, first at Malta and later at Netley, being discharged at the end of June. The next two or three months were spent at Weymouth. On September 22nd he left Weymouth for France, where he was attached to the Wilts Regiment, and on October 9th he fell on the Somme front.

It is rather a pathetic circumstance that on the day of his death he had written a letter to his wife, in the course of which he remarked that a chum, poor Fred Angel, had gone (killed on the 5th as reported in last week's "Wiltshire Times")

Pte Stokes married Nellie, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Coles, The Midlands, and he leaves a widow and two children, the eldest aged six years. He was a keen footballer and played in goal for the Holt team. On the football team – and indeed wherever he went – he was the same, straight, manly, modest, and unassuming and it was these qualities that gained for him the esteem and confidence of all who were brought into close contact with him. His age was 28.

*Mrs. F.O. Stokes wishes to thank all kind friends for many kind messages of sympathy she has received in her sad bereavement.
Midlands Holt*

Wiltshire Times 28th October 1916

Frank Oliver Stokes was awarded:
Victory Medal C /1/102/B12 1392
British Medal C/1/102/B12 1392
15 Star C/1/1B 259

He was killed in action on 9th October 1916. He is buried at Grandcourt Road Cemetery, France - Grave Reference D.38

Frank Oliver Stokes, Private, 19566, Wiltshire Regiment, 1st Battalion

References

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