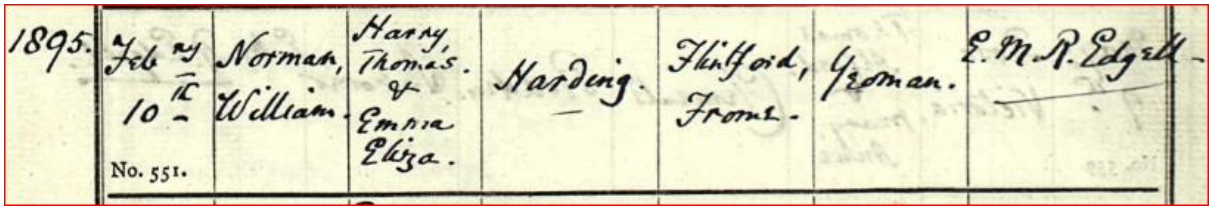
Norman William Harding
Private 230901, Dorset Yeomanry (Queen's Own)

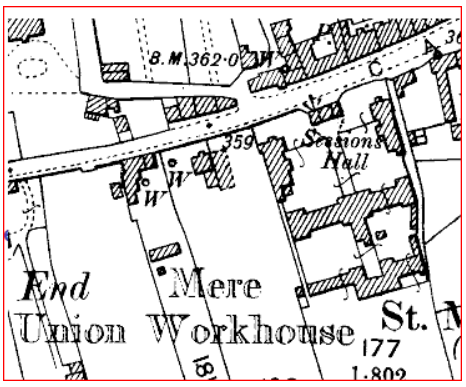
Norman William Harding was born in the Frome District of Somerset, his birth being registered in the March Quarter of 1895 in the Frome Registration District. He was the son of Harry Thomas and Emma Eliza Harding. He was baptised on the 10th February 1895 at Rodden, Somerset. His father is recorded as being a yeoman.



1895.	Feb 10	Norman William.	Harry Thomas. & Emma Eliza.	Harding.	Flitford, Frome.	Yeoman.	E. M. R. Edgell.
	No. 551.						

In the 1901 census at Rodden Down, Selwood, Frome, Somerset, the family are recorded as:
Harry Thomas Harding, Head, Aged 36, Farm Manager & Land Agent and Insurance Agent, born in Frome, Somerset; Emma Eliza Harding, Wife, Aged 32, born in Hinton Blewett, Somerset; Norman William Harding, Son, Aged 6, Farm Manager's Son, Born in Frome, Somerset

By 1911 the family were living and working in the Mere Union Workhouse:
Harry Harding, Head, Aged 46, Master of Union Workhouse employed by the Board of Guardians, born in Frome, Somerset; Emma, Wife, Aged 43, Matron of the Union Workhouse employed by the Board of Guardians, born in Hinton, Somerset; Norman Harding, Son, Aged 16, Clerk to the Master of the Union Workhouse employed by the Board of Guardians, born in Frome, Somerset.



The 1911 census confirms that Norman was an only child.

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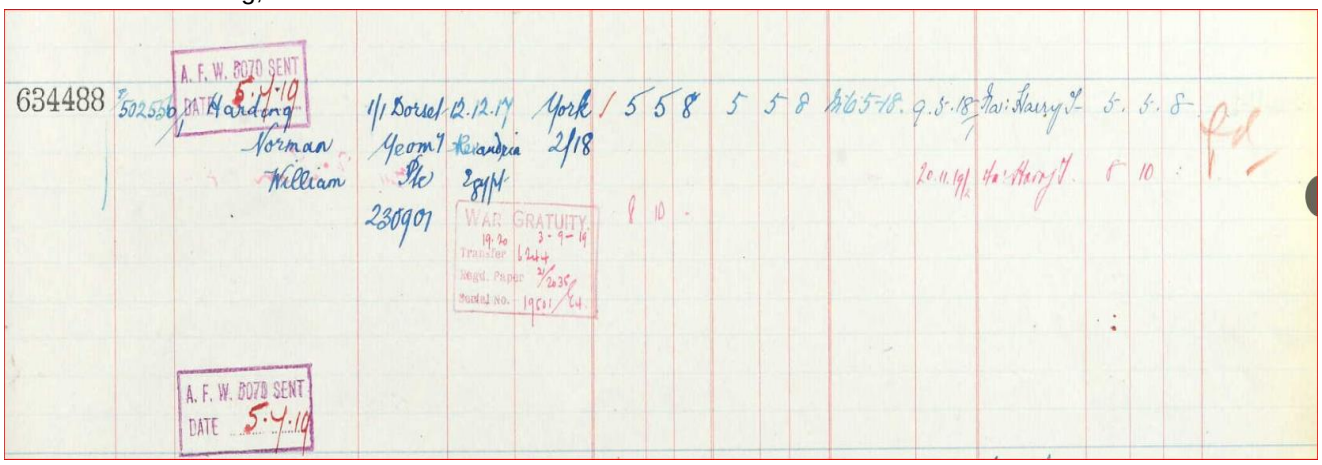
During WWI Norman served in the Dorset (Queens's Own) Yeomanry a Battalion of the Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line (including Yeomanry and Imperial Camel Corps. He enlisted in Sherborne, Dorset and his residence was given as Mere.

Norman died of wounds on 12th December 1917 aged 22, whilst serving in the Egyptian Campaign.

Norman William Harding is buried in the Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave/Memorial Reference:- D. 263. His headstone is inscribed with the words Peace Perfect Peace

At the time of his death his parents were living in Mere. He is also commemorated on the Mere War Memorial and is named (we believe incorrectly) on the North Bradley Memorials. He is also named in the Mere Section of the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book

In 1919 A war Gratuity Payment was awarded to Harry Thomas Harding, next of kin



The War Memorial at Mere

The confusion over why Norman William Harding is named on the North Bradley Memorials is a mystery. It may be that Maiden Bradley (near to Mere) and North Bradley were mixed up when the lists of names were compiled for inclusion on village memorials. However there does not seem to be a connection to Maiden Bradley mentioned in the records we have found. At present it remains unresolved.

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