

(GAIUS) WILLIAM HODGKIN

1890 - 1917

6th Battalion, The Buffs, East Kent Regiment



Surname/Christian name: Hodgkin, William

Rank/Service No: G/8970

Regiment/Unit: 6th Battalion, The Buffs, East Kent Regiment.



Regiment Badge

Date of Death: 1st May, 1917

Age: 28

Type of Casualty: Killed in Action

Theatre of War: The Somme

Born/Year/Location: Born October 1890, Pembury, Kent.

Enlisted/Attestation: 27th November 1915 at Gore Court, Goudhurst, Kent

Son of/Address: Son of Charles Hodgkin and Abigail Mary (Brown) Hodgkin

Buried/Commemorated/Memorial: ARRAS MEMORIAL, Bay 2, France

Personal and Family Information:

William was born at Amherst Bank Farm cottages, situated on the road from Pembury to Capel in Kent, and baptised Gaius William Hodgkin on the 2nd November 1890 at St. Peter's Church Pembury, Kent, the son of Charles and Mary Hodgkin.

His birth was registered in the Tonbridge Register District in the 4th quarter of 1890 as Gaius William, in volume 2a, page 637. (*see Footnote 2*)

He was named after his grandfather, also Gaius William, who was born in Lamberhurst, Kent, a farm labourer.

William's father Charles, was also a farm labourer, born in Lamberhurst.

PARENTS: Charles and Abigail Mary married at All Saints Parish Church, Brenchley, Kent, on the 1st August, 1886.

(Gaius) William's father, Charles Hodgkin, died in 1911 and in the 1911 census the family were living in Herstmonceux with Ada Hodgkin, now Ada Egerton, Gaius William's elder sister.

Gaius had dropped his first name and was now known by his second name, William. Abigail Mary, his mother, had long since stopped using her first name preferring Mary.

Father - **Charles Hodgkin**, born 1855, Lamberhurst, son of Gaius William Hodgkin of Lamberhurst, and **Martha Duly** of Ashburnham, Sussex, one of the 14 children of John Duly and Mary Jenner.

Mother - **Abigail Mary Brown**, born 1865 and baptised on the 10th December 1865 at St. Stephen's, Tonbridge. Kent, the eldest daughter of Harry Brown and Ann Barden, Abigail was the second of their five children.

From Herstmonceux, the Hodgkin family moved to Schoolhouse Farm Cottages in Horsmonden, Kent

Siblings: William's nearest relatives will be the descendants from his sibling's marriages (their surnames in bold type).

His sister Lavinia Annie married Bertram William A. **Weeks**. Sister, Ada Mary married Henry B **Egerton**.

Sister, Lily married Alfred James **Larkin**. Brother, Charles married Kate Lower - **Hodgkin**.

Sister, May married Edward Henry **Osbourne**

Prior Occupation: Farm Labourer

Relevant Military Record/Service details:

William signed up for the duration of the war with the Colours and to the Army Reserve A, with the 6th Battalion, The Buffs, East Kent Regiment, after being passed fit at the Buffs H.Q. in Canterbury, Kent.

After 4 months training, he embarked with his unit and landed in France on the 19th May 1916

Following further training in France, William's unit fought in the Battle of the Somme and engaged in fierce fighting in the area of Ovillers-la-Boisson in July 1916.

In 1917 William was involved in heavy fighting at Arras in the 1st Battle of The Scarpe, 9th - 14th April 1917, the Battle of Arleux 28th - 29th April 1917. He was killed in action in the 3rd Battle of The Scarpe (9th April- 16th May 1917) on the 1st May 1917.

William was single when he was killed.

Like thousands of other soldiers that perished in that bloody conflict, William's remains were never recovered from the battlefield and he is commemorated at the Arras Memorial in France for servicemen with no known grave, at Bay 2, Course A, Stone no.6.

Service Records:

The Service Records shown are from Private Hodgkin's service file, several pages of which were badly fire damaged and subsequently water damaged during the extinguishing of the fire, when the Army repository in Wandsworth was hit during a German air raid in 1940.

ASHFORD, KENT. Original
Army Form R. 2512.

SI O I N SERVICE
(For the Duration of the War with the Colonel and in the Army Reserve) Card No. 41168
4/22

Name *William Hodgkin* No. *80770* Name *W. Hodgkin* TATTON OF Corps

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment:

1. What is your Name? *William Hodgkin*
2. What is your full Address? *2, Southdown Cottages, Ashford-on-the-Water*
3. Are you a British Subject? *Yes*
4. How old are you? *27*
5. Are you a Tradesman or Calling? *None*
6. Are you Married? *No*
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? *No*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes*
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? *Yes*
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? *Yes* Name *W. Hodgkin* Corp. *Private*
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so see fit: For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all accumulated pay. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colonel and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 21st Oct. 1917, and such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If you are called up for service in a theatre of war, you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

I, *William Hodgkin*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT: *William Hodgkin*
Signature of Witness: *John Brown*

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.
I, *William Hodgkin*, do solemnly swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in His duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers sent over me, as long as they shall command me.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.
The Recruit above named was examined by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were explained to the Recruit in my presence.
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered on the form, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me on this *27th* day of *March* 1918.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the requisite forms appear to have been compiled with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the *1st* *Regiment*.
If enlisted by special authority/leave from B. 201 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attested on original attestation.

Date: *27 March 1918*
Place: *Ashford*
Signature of Attesting Officer: *John Brown*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON ENLISTMENT.
(To be completed with Entries in the British History Sheet.)
Applicable to all ranks.

Name: *William Hodgkin*
Apparent age: *27* years *68* months Height: *5* feet *6* inches
Chest Measurement: *37.6* inches (Girth when fully expanded) Range of expansion: *2* inches
Distinctive marks: _____

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.
Name and Address of next-of-kin: *Mary Hodgkin, School House, Ashford, Kent* Relationship: *Wife*

Particulars as to Marriage:
(1) Christian and Secular names (2) Place and date of marriage (3) Place and date of marriage (4) Place and date of marriage (5) Place and date of marriage

Particulars as to Children:
Christian Names: _____ Date and Place of Birth: _____

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

1. Passed classes of Instruction: *Private*
2. Campaigns: *None*
3. Wounded: _____
4. Special instances of gallantry and services in public capacities: _____
5. Medals, decorations, and awards: *British War & Victory Medal*
6. Injuries in or by the service: _____

Attestation and Descriptive Report on Williams Service

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. *80770* *William Hodgkin*

| Corps | Batt. or Depot | Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. | Army Rank | Dates | Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension | | Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | years | days | |
| General Service | | Attested | <i>Private</i> | <i>27 Nov 1918</i> | | | <i>J. S. Hudson</i> |
| General Service | | " " Army Reserve | " | <i>28</i> | | | |
| | | Mobilized | | <i>11. 2. 16</i> | | | |
| | | Posted | | <i>13. 2. 16</i> | | | <i>M. P. ...</i> |
| | | 6th Posted | | <i>19. 5. 16</i> | | | <i>... 3rd Bn. The Buffs</i> |

Statement of Services

| STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 8970 <i>William Hodgkin</i> | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Corps | Batt. or Depot | Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. | Army Rank | Date | Service not allowed to reckon for rating the rate of Pension years days | Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries |
| General Service | | Attested | <i>Pte</i> | <i>27 Dec 1915</i> | | <i>W. Hodgkin</i> |
| General Service | | "o Army Reserve | | <i>28</i> | | |
| | | Mobilised | | <i>11. 2. 16</i> | | |
| | | Posted | | <i>13. 2. 16</i> | | |
| | | | | <i>19. 5. 16</i> | | |

Casualty Form

Brief summary of Williams active service up to the time he was killed in action

Army Form W. 2022.

PERSONAL EFFECTS.

Name *W. Hodgkin*
 No. *8970* Rank *Pte*
 Regiment *6th Bn East Kent*

| Article | Where stored | Notified by |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Letters</i> | | |
| <i>Photos</i> | | |

Stamp: **WARREY RECORD OFFICE**
W. Hodgkin
 Jan 8. 1917
HOUSTON

OFFICER IN CHARGE,
 THE BARRACKS,
 THE BARRACKS,
 THE BARRACKS.

Final Disposal

Remarks: *killed in action*

Sir

Mr W. Hodgkin
 School House
 Wareham
 Dorset

I am writing to say I received letters and photos belonging to 8970 (No 11 Hodgkin 6 Buffs S.K.R) and may I thank you very much for your kindness of returning the packet found on my son.

I remain yours
 Faithful
Mr W. Hodgkin

Personal Effects

Shows Willaim had on him a variety of letters and photos that were sent to his mother – on right, letter of thanks to the Army for sending Williams personal effects

War Medals, Plaque and Scrolls Documentation

The Buffs Regiment Medal Roll Entitlement Log Book below

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal in the British War Medal granted under Army Order 212, of 1919.

| No. of Medal | Name | Rank | Regiment | Date of Issue | Themed as in which award | | | | | Date of Issue | Remarks |
|---------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------|
| | | | | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | | |
| <i>2/2565</i> | <i>W. Hodgkin</i> | <i>Pte</i> | <i>6th Buffs</i> | <i>1915</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>2/2566</i> | <i>W. Hodgkin</i> | <i>Pte</i> | <i>6th Buffs</i> | <i>1915</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>2/2567</i> | <i>W. Hodgkin</i> | <i>Pte</i> | <i>6th Buffs</i> | <i>1915</i> | | | | | | | |

Stamp: **WARREY RECORD OFFICE**
HOUSTON

PLAQUE & SCROLL.
Serial No. // /
Army Form W. 5080.

Regiment **6th THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT)** To be filled in by
Officer in Charge of
Records.

6/8970 Pte HODGKIN William deceased

STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

| Degree of relationship | NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree required for (see note above). | ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name. |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Widow of the Soldier ... | None | |
| Children of the Soldier and dates of their births... | None | |
| Father of the Soldier ... | None | |
| Mother of the Soldier ... | Widow Motherside | School House Horsmonden Kent |
| Brothers of the Soldier | Full Blood ... yao. Charles | 20 Holy Rine School House Horsmonden |
| | Half blood ... | = |
| Sisters of the Soldier | Full blood ... Anne Ada Alice May | 55 50 26 29 74 School House Horsmonden Kent |
| | Half blood ... | = |

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:—

| | Names of those now living. | Addresses in full. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Grandparents of the Soldier ... | | |
| Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ... | = | |
| Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ... | = | |

DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees required for.

Relationship to the Soldier: **Mother** Signature of the Declarant: **Mrs Mary Motherside**
Address in full: **School House Horsmonden Kent**

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by **Mrs Mary Motherside** and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at: **Horsmonden** this **15th** day of **August** 1919

Signature of Minister or Magistrate: **Arthur Morley** Qualification: **M.A. (Camb)**
Address: **Remingtons, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden, Kent**

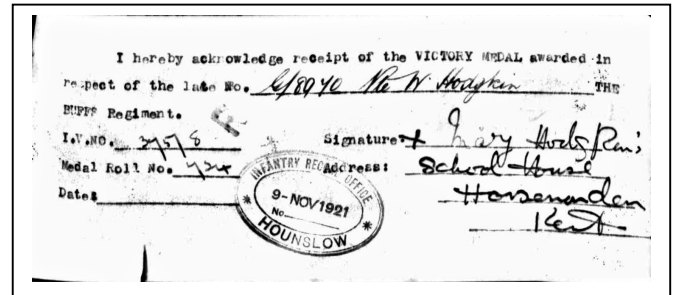
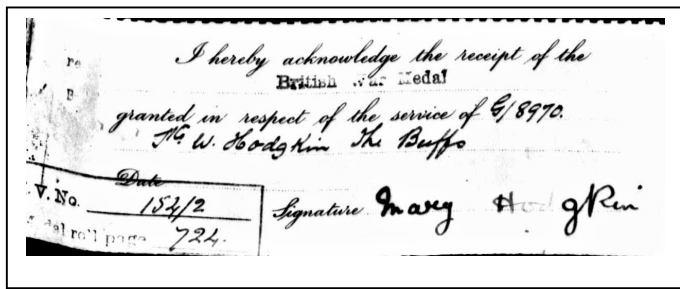
Sup. W. 5080 (FORM 1, 1909) (REV. 218, 8.4.1918)

This form W5080 was required to be filled in to claim the Commemorative Plaque and Scroll where the next of kin on attestation had died. The form was signed by William's Mother and witnessed by Mr Arthur Morley (M.A. Cambridge) of Remingtons, Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden

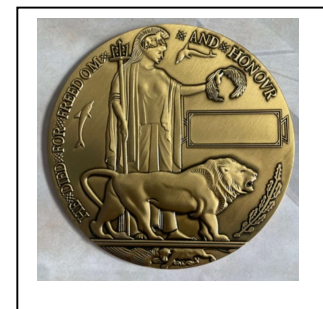
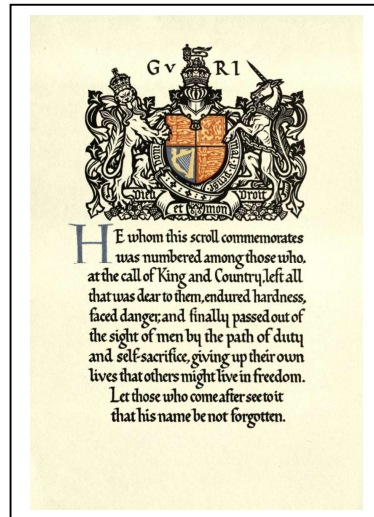
| Name. | Corps. | Rank. | Regt. No. |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| HODGKIN William | 6. Kent R | Pte | G. 8970 |
| Medal. | Roll. | Page. | Remarks. |
| VICTORY | F/2/102 B5 | 724 | |
| BRITISH | | -4- | |
| STAR | | | |
| Theatre of War first served in | | | |
| Date of entry therein | | | |

K. 1280.

Medal Roll Index Card below

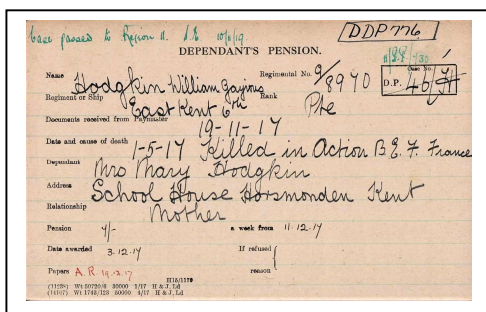


Medal receipts above for British War & Victory Medals

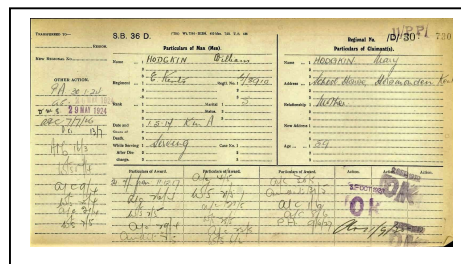


William's British War and Victory Medals, Memorial Scroll and Memorial Plaque (Death Penny) Which were sent to his mother (Abigail) Mary at Horsmonden

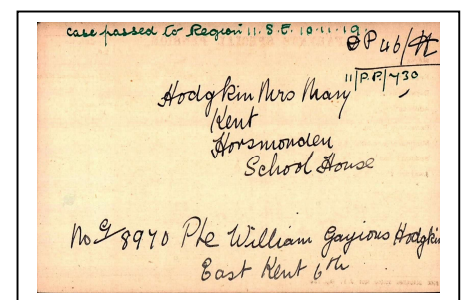
Pension Documentation



Pension Award



Pension Claim



Pension Card Address

William was named as William 'Gayious' Hodgkin on the Pension Claim and Address cards, albeit the wrong spelling

William had £3-8sh-5d due which was pay due which was added to a War Gratuity of £4-10sh-0d which was sent to his mother Mary, the sole legatee. Mary was awarded a weekly pension of 7 shillings a week

United Kingdom War Memorials.

Horsmonden War Memorial



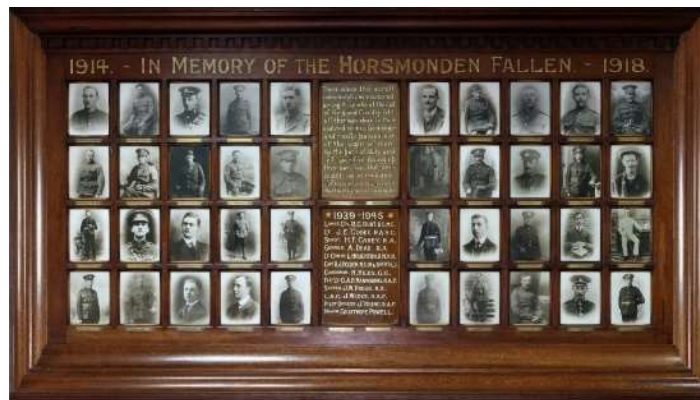
1922



Photo of respective part of WM
* See footnote 1: HODGSKIN



Present Day



Oak Memorial Plaque
Soldier shown right block, row 2, no. 4



St Margaret's Church Memorial Scroll

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Entry

CWGC CERTIFICATE

In Memory Of
Private


WILLIAM HODGKIN

Service Number: G/8970

6th Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on 01 May 1917 Age 28

Son of Mrs. Hodgkin, of School House Cottages, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Remembered with Honour
ARRAS MEMORIAL
Bay 2.



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

HODGKIN, Pte. William, G/8970. 6th Bn. The Buffs. 1st May, 1917. Age 28. Son of Mrs. Hodgkin, of School House Cottages, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood, Kent.

CWGC Grave Registration

Sept. 21st 1929

| BAY No. 2 | ARRAS MEMORIAL CORRIGIA "A" | STONE No. 6 |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 131 | 131 | 132 |
| Hewkins W.H. | Russell F.H. | Sedgwick G. |
| Higgs H.W. | Sailler F. | Shapcott G.T. |
| Hodkins P. | Sudbury J. | Steen R. |
| Hod N. | Sumner H. | Street J. |
| Holmes G.W. | Syger F.H. | Sumner H.A. |
| Hose A.W. | Sedgwick V. | Williams S.I. |
| Hocking J. | Selling G. | |
| Hocking J.V. | Seymour A. | PLATEAU |
| Hodge J. | Shill J. | Adams S.W. |
| Hodkin W. | Shurman W. | Andrews J.B. |
| Holstcock G.H. | Shurrod G. | Armstrong S. |
| Holmes G.A. | Shawl T. | Armstrong T. |
| Holmes H.P. | Shoebidge J. | Armstrong J. |

(Type 29.10.1928).

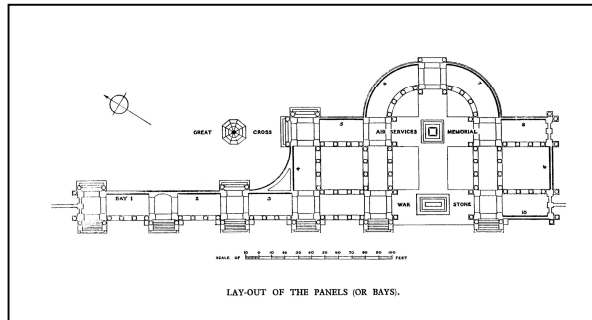
*Rolling around 1-2-29
Name 37
See list off*

ARRAS MEMORIAL Panel list

ARRAS MEMORIAL



Cemetery Plan:



Pte. William Hodgkin



1890 - 1917

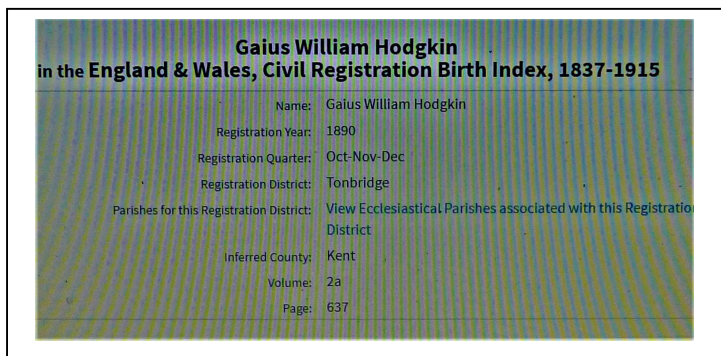
Footnotes and Acknowledgements:

Footnote 1: Wrongly spelled as HODGSKIN on the Horsmonden War Memorial.

The Horsmonden War Memorial has some errors: Pte HODGSKIN should read HODGKIN without the 'S'. The Initials are also wrong; W.C. should be G.W. or W.G. His registered name was GAIUS WILLIAM HODGKIN (Civil Registration Birth Index) He enlisted as WILLIAM HODGKIN, dropping the Gaius



Footnote 2: The Army pension award for his mother names him as William Gayious Hodgkin as it does on a pension file note (attached) with mother's address, the address was later corrected. It should be W.G. on the memorial instead of W.C. It should read G.W. Hodgkin



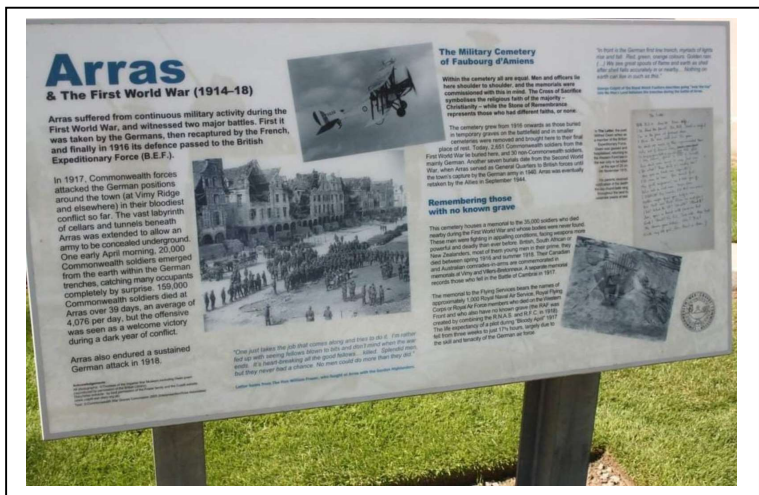
Births Register, Tonbridge Register District, volume 2a, page 637.

There are a number of living descendants: Further research in this respect is ongoing.

William's nearest relatives will be the descendants from his sibling's marriages (their surnames in bold).

His sister Lavinia Annie married Bertram William A. **Weeks**. Sister, Ada Mary married Henry B **Egerton**. Sister, Lily married Alfred James **Larkin**. Brother, Charles married Kate Lower - **Hodgkin** Sister, May married Edward Henry **Osbourne**.

Footnote 3: In 2013, Ray Steward, cousin of Andrew Hodgkin, Gt. Nephews of Pte. Hodgkin, visited the Arras War Memorial and took this photo of the War Memorial Information Plaque



Research and Compilation:
L Burgess and J Freeman
HORSMONDEN HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP