

William Arthur Veale

Cranage Hall, Holmes Chapel

Returned



His Story

William was born in 1895 at Ockham, Surrey to William and Annie Eliza Veale. His father was a gardener at Hatchford End and by 1911 Harold was also working in the garden. After 1911 it appears the family moved to Holmes Chapel because of the reports in the Parish Magazine but no details have been found. As William Veale was a gardener at a significant property in Surrey he may have moved to Cranage Hall as gardener but it is conjecture. We know William and Eliza moved to Llandudno Junction at a later stage but dates are not known.

After the war he went back to Cobham, where he was living in 1921. He died in Oxford in May 1950, aged 54.

His War Record

William enlisted in the 5th Battalion, East Kent Regiment, known for historical reasons as "The Buffs".

During 1915 he served first in India, then in Mesopotamia (now known as Iraq) with the Indian Expeditionary Force "D". He was wounded in January 1916, and then returned to India for most of the year, but by November he was back in Mesopotamia. A bout of fever, reported in the Parish Magazine, put him in hospital abroad for three months in 1917, but he returned to the regiment and served in the Middle East, India and Afghanistan until demobilization in November 1919. He was awarded the India General Service Medal, the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal and his name appears on the Roll of Honour.