

George Holt

(1889 – 1917)



George was born in Tottington, Lancashire. He married Mary Agnes Coupe, an aunt of John Coupe (also researched in this project), in the 2nd quarter of 1911 in Bolton, Lancashire. The marriage must have taken place soon after the 1911 Census as George and Mary Agnes Coupe were both living with their parents at that time. ⁽¹⁾

George served with the Kings (Liverpool Regiment) his regimental number being 50517. ⁽¹⁵⁾

War Record

Service and Pension Records have not been found, but a Medal Record was traced showing he was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal in 1919. ⁽²⁾ George is remembered on the Tottington Roll of Honour. Unfortunately George Holt was killed in action in France on 16th August, 1917. The record of this confirms that he was a Private serving with

- (a) The Lancashire Fusiliers, regimental number 18041.
- (b) The King's (Liverpool Regiment) number 50517, until he was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele on 16th Aug. 1917. ⁽¹⁵⁾

His grand-daughter passed on an eye-witness report on George Holt's death in action that had been passed on to her father. I repeat it here as she wrote it:

'George went "over the top" and was shot, he wasn't killed outright, but, no one could get to him, so he died a sad and lonely death. I think of him often, he must have been terrified. Far, far too young' ⁽¹⁹⁾

The Battle of Passchendaele, also referred to as the Third Battle of Ypres, took place between July and November 1917. Passchendaele lay on the last ridge east of Ypres, 5 miles from a railway junction at Roulers, which was vital to the supply system of the German 4th Army. ⁽¹⁷⁾

Family History

1911 Census - The Holt family living at 50 Cann Street, Tottington, Near Bury ⁽¹⁾

Head: Matthew Holt	1835, Tottington
Harriet Holt	b. 1850, Cold Park, Shropshire
GEORGE HOLT	age 22 - labourer
Margaret Holt	age 19 - weaver
Elizabeth Holt	age 16 - weaver
Mary Holt	age 13 - weaver
Matthew Holt	age, 10 - school

1911 Census – the Coupe Family living at Holly Bank Entwistle

Head: John Coupe	b. 1854 Whittle-le-Woods,
Elizabeth Coupe	b. 1855, Stockport
Alice Ann Coupe	aged 25 - Plaiter
MARY AGNES COUPE	aged 23 - Plaiter
Florence Elizabeth Coupe	aged 21 - Cloth weaver
Annie	aged 18 - Cloth winder
Joseph Bolan, boarder	aged 25 - Labourer

George Holt married Mary Agnes Coupe Apl-June 1911 in Bolton, Lancashire, England. It is sad to think that Mary Agnes was left to bring up 3 young sons, George, Jack and Arnold, after George's death in 1917.

Mary Agnes was the sister of Edith Coupe who was married to Thomas Davies. He has also been researched in this project. Both these sisters were given the terrible news of their husbands' deaths on Christmas Day in 1917. ⁽¹⁸⁾ A family tree showing the relationship of the two families is included in the biography for Thomas Davies.



Family portrait of George Holt with his wife, Mary Agnes and their three young sons. ⁽¹⁸⁾

Mary Agnes Holt (nee Coupe) widow of George Holt married Fred Knowles in Apl-June 1926 in Bolton. Fred was born in Edgworth and had 2 brothers, Tommy and Billy Knowles who dealt in poultry and were said to be local 'characters'.

At some point Fred (see separate biography) left Edgworth and moved to Middleton Junction, near Rochdale. Fred and Mary Agnes had a daughter Freda. ^(36,18)

Research: Irene Spencer

Standard References: 1, 2, 15, 36 plus:

17. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Passchendaele
18. Personal information given by his grand-nephew, Rev, R.A. Coupe
19. Personal information given by his grand-daughter, Kathryn Duty

In Memory of

Private

George Holt

50517, 12th Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on 16 August 1917 Age 28

Son of Matthew and Harriet Holt, of Cockerill's Cottages, Tottington, Bury; husband of Mary Agnes Holt, of Bridge Cottages, Entwistle, Bolton.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Remembered on the Tyne Cot memorial - Panel 31 to 34 and 162 and 162A and 163A(15)