

**Sergeant William Hollebon<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: 3017**  
**9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment**

**born: August 1887 - died: 5 June 1918**

Sergeant William Hollebon was born in August 1887,<sup>1</sup> the son of George and Mary Hollebon. George and Mary were both born in England—George in May 1860 in Eastbourne, Sussex and Mary (probably nee Charlotte Mary Mileham) in September 1865 in Reading, Berkshire.<sup>2</sup>

George and Mary may have married in Eastbourne in 1886<sup>3</sup> and immigrated to the United States the same year. They boarded the SS *Marseille* in Antwerp, Belgium, and arrived in New Orleans on 4 September 1886. Their first son, William, was born at sea in August 1887, ten days before they arrived in New Orleans.<sup>4</sup> They went on to have probably nine more children—all born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Amy Lucile (born on 18 October 1889),<sup>5</sup> Lizzie (born on 2 April 1890),<sup>6</sup> William, Elsie L (born in 1895),<sup>7</sup> Madeleine (born in September 1897),<sup>8</sup> Mabel (born in about 1901),<sup>9</sup> Alfred (born on 31 January 1903),<sup>10</sup> Grace M (born on 3 October 1904)<sup>11</sup> and Harriett (born in 1908).<sup>12</sup>

Sadly, the family lost three children in childhood: Amy died in 1904,<sup>13</sup> at the age of 15, and both Madeleine and Harriet died in 1910— Harriet at the age of 2<sup>14</sup> and Madeleine at 13.<sup>15</sup>

In 1900, the family was living at 840 Arlington Place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where William's father George was a labourer.<sup>16</sup> The family continued to live at that address until at least 1920.<sup>17</sup> In 1905, he was a freight handler<sup>18</sup> and, in 1910, a machinist.<sup>19</sup> By 1910, William himself was working as an apprentice in a printing shop. Two years later, William's father died.<sup>20</sup>

At some prior to 1915, William returned to England—to the birthplace of his father. He married Margaret Frew in Brighton, Sussex, in early 1915 and had a son, also William, later that year.<sup>21</sup> He also enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in Brighton early in the Great War and joined the Front in France on 31 August 1915.

At the beginning of June 1918, the Royal Sussex Regiment was stationed in the field, near Loos in northern France.<sup>22</sup> On 3 June a party of 30 Other Ranks raided the enemy trenches. "Artillery, Trench Mortars and Machine Guns co-operated in the raid which resulted in the capture of 2 Privates of the 1st BAVARIAN Reserve Division." Four ORs were wounded and two were missing. William may have been one of those wounded because he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 3 June 1918 with unspecified wounds.<sup>23</sup> He died there two days later and was buried the next day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row F, Grave 16) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.

The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCS came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.<sup>24</sup> In May 1918, nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.<sup>25</sup> In June 1918, over 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.<sup>26</sup> There were 82 deaths that month.

His wife, who was living at 7 Richmond Buildings in Brighton, was notified of his death.<sup>27</sup> She probably moved to London soon after because, when she requested the following inscription for William's gravestone, she was living at 84 Teignmouth, Cricklewood, London, N.W.2:

WHAT WE HAVE LOST  
THE HEAVEN HAS GAINED  
ONE OF THE BEST  
THE WORLD CONTAINED<sup>28</sup>

In 1939, she may have been living at 83 Rosebery Square in Holborn, London.

William was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>29</sup>

William is remembered on the war memorial in the Old Steine Gardens in Brighton.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “1900 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for William Hollebe??N [sic]

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for George Henry Hollebon, Registration district: Eastbourne, Inferred county: Sussex, Volume: 2b, Page: 185. This record is for a Constance (not Charlotte) Mary Mileham, but it is assumed to be the same person.

<sup>4</sup> “New Orleans, Passenger Lists, 1813–1963,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for George Hollebon

<sup>5</sup> “Wisconsin, Births and Christenings Index, 1801–1928,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for Amy Lucile Hollebon, FHL Film Number: 1012589

<sup>6</sup> “Wisconsin, Births and Christenings Index, 1801–1928,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for Lizzie Hollebon, FHL Film Number: 1305129

<sup>7</sup> “1900 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 October 2017), entry for William Hollebe??N [sic]

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> “Wisconsin, State Censuses, 1895 and 1905,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 October 2017), entry for William George Hollsbon, Census date: 1 Jun 1905, Line: 5, Roll: CSUSAWI1905\_35

<sup>10</sup> Alfred “Wisconsin, Births and Christenings Index, 1801–1928,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for Alfred Hollebon, FHL Film Number: 1013705

<sup>11</sup> “Wisconsin, Births and Christenings Index, 1801–1928,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for Grace M Hollebon, FHL Film Number: 1305129

<sup>12</sup> “1910 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for William Hollebon

<sup>13</sup> “U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for Amy Hollebon

<sup>14</sup> “U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for Harriet Hollebon

<sup>15</sup> “U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for Madeleine Hollebon

<sup>16</sup> “1900 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for William Hollebe??N [sic]

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- <sup>17</sup> "U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for George Hollebon, Publication title: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, City Directory, 1920
- <sup>18</sup> "Wisconsin, State Censuses, 1895 and 1905," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 October 2017), entry for William George Hollebon, Census date: 1 Jun 1905, Line: 5, Roll: CSUSAWI1905\_35
- <sup>19</sup> "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for William Hollebon
- <sup>20</sup> "U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for George Hollebon
- <sup>21</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for William Hollebon, Registration district: Brighton, Inferred county: Sussex, Volume: 3b, Page: 322
- <sup>22</sup> UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 November 2017), entry for ?, Regiment or unit: Royal Sussex Regiment, Sub-unit: 9th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 May, Piece description: Piece 2219/2: 9 Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (1915 Aug - 1919 May), Piece number: 2219
- <sup>23</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 2 November 2017), entry for Hollebon, W.
- <sup>24</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- <sup>25</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 15 December 2014)
- <sup>26</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 15 December 2014)
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Hollebon, William, Service No: 3017
- <sup>29</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 November 2017), entry for William Hollebon
- <sup>30</sup> "Brighton War Memorial," *Roll of Honour* (<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Sussex/Brighton.html>: accessed 6 November 2017)