

Corporal John William Holland

Regimental number: 895614

"D" Battery, 276th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

born: about 1884 - died: 21 July 1918

Corporal John William Holland, born in London in about 1884,¹ was the husband of Lily Page.² John and Lily were married towards the end of 1916 in Eastbourne, Sussex.³ Lily was the daughter of David and Betsy Amos Page of 77 Bourne Street, Eastbourne.⁴

John enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery, in Stratford, Essex.⁵ The 276th Brigade was also known as the 2nd West Lancashire Brigade RFA, based in Liverpool.⁶ On 20 July 1918, John was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds that penetrated his abdomen.⁷ He died the following day and was buried that day in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row F, Grave 15). The chaplain R. L. Brydges presided, replacing the chaplain J. K. Tibbits who left on leave the day before.⁸ John was a member of the Church of England. The chaplain was not aware of his next-of-kin, so a letter was sent to his adjutant to notify his unit of his death. At the time, Lily was probably living with her widowed mother, still at 77 Bourne Street in Eastbourne.

The day that he was admitted to the 1st CCCS, there were 148 admissions and John was one of 39 to die at that CCCS in July.⁹ Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.¹⁰ This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

John was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹¹

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¹ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 June 2015), entry for John William Holland

² "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org; accessed 11 June 2015), entry for Holland, John William

³ "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 11 June 2015), entry for John W. Holland, District: Eastbourne, County: Sussex, Volume: 2B, Page: 152

⁴ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2015), entry for Lily Page, Registration district: Eastbourne, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 774, Folio: 64, Page Number: 2; "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 June 2015), entry for Betsy Amos Pope, District: Eastbourne, Registration district number: 71, Enumeration district: 10, Subdistrict: Eastbourne, Subdistrict number: 2, Census reference: RG14PN4822 RG78PN208 RD71 SD2 ED10 SN159, Piece number 4822

⁵ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 June 2015), entry for John William Holland

⁶ CCLXXVI Brigade," The Long, Long Trail (http://www.1914-1918.net/rfa_units_276.html; accessed 16 June 2015)

⁷ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 634

⁸ "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=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G)

⁹ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31"

¹⁰ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)

¹¹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 11 June 2015), entry for John W. Holland