



RODGERS, WILLIAM

Nationality: United Kingdom Rank:

Private Regiment: Royal Air Force

24th Kite Balloon Section

Date of Death: 03/02/1919

Service No: 116089

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: On East boundary. Cemetery:

FINGRINGHOE (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD

William joined the Army initially and was stationed at Harwich with his brother Robert in the forage section. They spent their time loading barges with hay for the horses on active duty in France. They had always been very close and both had experience in straw and hay cutting in their civilian life. Apparently William at some stage became homesick and wanted to see his mother back in Fingringhoe. One night he broke the curfew and cycled home to see her. He was later picked up by the Military Police and taken away. Shortly after this he was transferred for his sins to the Balloon section of the RFC over in occupied France. We believe he served out the rest of the war in this section. After the war, sadly he contracted pneumonia, probably not helped by the gas he must have been in contact with, and he died in February 1919.

He joined up on the 1st January 1918 and was in the RAF Kite Balloon Section with the RFC and a rank equivalent to an Air Mechanic 3rd Class. When the RFC merged into the Royal Air Force, his trade was amalgamated into the new trade of Labourer with the rank of Private 2nd Class and was paid 1shilling 6 pence per day. 24 Balloon Section for all of WW1 was part of No 2 Balloon Company, No 1 Balloon Wing. It was an Observation Balloon unit. Below is a picture of an observation balloon being repaired. Two officers usually ascended with a kite balloon, one to control it & one to make observations. If attacked by fighter aircraft they descended by parachute.



William with his brother Robert (the Sergeant) on his right. & William by himself.



1901 Census shows the following family :- Robert Rodgers aged 10 born Fingringhoe living East Donyland listed as a Scholar, William Rodgers aged 12 also born Fingringhoe living East Donyland listed as a Scholar. His sister Flora Rodgers aged 15 born Fingringhoe listed as at Home living at East Donyland & the father Henry Rodgers aged 40 born Laver De La Haye living at Donyland working as a Thatcher & Hay Cutter



"DEADMAN'S PENNY" 1914-19 Victory Medal 1914-20 War Medal

OTHER MEMORIALS Saint Andrew's Fingringhoe & the Methodist Chapel Fingringhoe



Note his name has been spelt "Rogers" on the plaque, which disagrees with the CWGC data bank & his gravestone in the churchyard.



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ABBERTON, EAST DONYPOND, FINGRINGHOE, LANGENHOE