

George James Hodges Ball



Private, Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted at Chippenham, 1915, and served with 1st Wilts in France, at the Somme, etc. Killed in action March 24th, 1918. General Service and Victory Medals.



GEORGE JAMES HODGES BALL WAS born in 1890 in Corsham. His father John was the town blacksmith, and lived on Station Road. In 1891 John and his wife, Sarah Jane (née Rudman) had four boys, Thomas, William, John Morgan and George. John senior also employed a young apprentice blacksmith – Thomas Mullins from Colerne. By 1901 two of the older boys, William and John Morgan, were employed in the family business: William as a blacksmith and John as a wheelwright. There were another two brothers, David and Edwin, and a sister Florence, who in 1901 was

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

living next door to the rest of the family with her grandparents Thomas and Mary Rudman. The 1911 census confirms that John and Sarah had a total of nine children, seven of whom survived beyond childhood. By 1911 George had followed his father's trade and was himself a blacksmith before he enlisted in the Army in 1915.

The Medal Rolls Index and *War Records of Corsham* confirm that George was a Private in the Wiltshire Regiment and that he served in France for much of the war, including the Somme. He was reported as killed in action on 24th March 1918, when he was 28 years old. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

His younger brother David also served in the war and was killed in action in September 1918. Four other Ball brothers served and survived the war.



*Memorial headstone to Sarah, George and David Ball
in Corsham's old Congregational Church graveyard.*