

WILLIAM HENRY LANG, Private 1130, 1/1st Dorsetshire Yeomanry SQMS 230447, Corps of Hussars

William was born on April 10 1892 at Kennford, Devon, where his father was working at that time. William Henry Lang, senior, was born in Winsham, and worked variously as a labourer, a groom and then coachman and gardener, his occupation in 1901 and 1911. By 1911 the family was living at Hillside Cottage, Buckland St Mary, probably having moved there in 1905, when the Albert and William junior started at Buckland School. Hillside is just above Loose Cross, on the way out of the village. William senior may perhaps have been working for the family at the Rectory or at Buckland House – he was a Coachman. In 1911 William was living at home with his family, and working as a Grocer's Assistant.

It looks as though he had a particularly adventurous war; according to the School Roll of Honour he was wounded - given the actions he was in it would have been remarkable if he were not, but we can find no information on his injury. He must have joined up early, for on April 23 1915 he was in Egypt as a Private with the 1/1st Dorsetshire Yeomanry. In August the Regiment was sent to Gallipoli and was involved in the Battles of Gallipoli, Sari Bair and Scimitar Hill. In December came the evacuation, and they returned to Egypt, where their Division joined the Western Front Force guarding the Suez Canal.

“In February 1916 a large force of Senussi tribesmen, backed by Turkish and German Officers and with machine gun and artillery support, was located at Agagia near Sidi Barrani, about 75 km east of the Egyptian/Libyan border. The Western Front Force staged an attack and during this battle, the retreating Senussi were charged by the Dorset Yeomanry with drawn swords across open ground and despite machine gun and rifle fire the 196 Dorset Yeomen drove the Senussi into headlong flight.” (*Barbara Elsmore, SDFHS magazine, 2016*)

At some point William, perhaps when he was moved to the Corps of Household Cavalry, was promoted to SQMS – Squadron Quartermaster Serjeant. These Cavalry groups were integrated into and supportive of the line regiments. In February 1917 their Brigade took part in the first and second Battles of Gaza. It was transferred to the Yeomanry Mounted Division for the third Battle of Gaza and the Battle of Beersheba. The Dorsets remained in Palestine till the end of the War. (*Wikipedia*)

William was demobbed, or ‘disembodied’ (the term used for Yeomanry Regiments) on June 29 1919. In the Absent Voters' Register he and his brother Albert are both registered as living in Buckland St Mary, now at Laurel Cottage, just below the old Lamb and Flag.

In 1920 he married Laura Beamish in the Swindon area; they had two children. In the 1939 Register he and Laura are living in Chippenham, and he's working as an Iron foundry Checker. He died in Chippenham in 1950 aged 57.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
LANG		Dorset	PA	1130
William H.		Corps of Air		23044A
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	* CY/14/B	1353	Disemb 29-6-79	
BRITISH	- do	- do		
15 STAR	CY/1/B4	319		
Theatre of War first served in		13/8 gnyft		
Date of entry therein		23-4-15		

K. 1380.

There is much information on these campaigns online and at the National Army Museum and at the Keep Military Museum, Dorchester

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[illegible]

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
LANG	Dorset	*S.M.S.	1130
William H.	Corps of Air	PA	230444
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	CY/144B	1353	Disemb 29-6-19
BRITISH	do	do	
15 STAR	CY/1/B4	319	
Theatre of War first served in	13/8 g/pt		
Date of entry therein	23-4-15		
K. 1380.			

MRIC

CORPS OF HUSSARS. (To be rendered in duplicate.) REGIMENT OR CORPS.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 366 & 301. of 1919.

Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	Last previously served with Regt. No. and Rank is same as entry this theatre of war	Theatre of war in which served								Colours awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Dispatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS	
				From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To				
300342	Lt Col	LANG, William H.	Staffs. Yeo. 2/8th	X											Dis. 30.10.19.
34235	Pte.	LANG, Walter J.	18 Hrs. Pte. 34235	X											Dis. 2.10.19.
73888	Pte.	LANG, William	9.1.18. Pte. 14388	X											Dis. 30.10.19.
385895	Sgt.	LANG, William G.	Worce. Yeo. Sgt. 38589	X											Comm. Wore. Yeo. 20.10.19.
11414	Pte.	LANG, Charles H.	4 Hrs. Pte. 11414	X											SHAVING.
9896	Lt Col	LANG, Robert	18 Hrs. 2/8th 3888	X											Sec. B. 2.5.19.
331607	Pte.	LANG, John H.	18 Hrs. Pte. 331607	X											Dis. 2.4.19.
37273	Pte.	LANG, Alfred Lang	4 Hrs. Pte. 37273	X											Dis. 2.1.19.
230447	S.M.S.	LANG, William H.	Don. Yeo. S.M.S. 1130	X											Dis. 29.2.19.
235683	Pte.	LANG, Joseph	18 Hrs. Pte. 23568	X											SHAVING.

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place Y O R A Date 30th December, 1919.

Signed for Col. [Signature]
Hussars.
Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

SERVICE MEDAL ROLL

(To be rendered in duplicate.)

CORPS OF HUSBANDS. REGIMENT OR CORPS. 296 & 301.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders of 1918. Roll No. 1353.

160

Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	Unit previously served with Regt. No. and Rank & date of entry into theatre of war	Theatre of war in which served								Clasp awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS		
				From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To					
300345	Lt Col	LAKE, Walter H.	Staffs. Yeo. 1/8th. Pte. 3010.	X												
34235	Pte.	LAKE, Walter J.	18 Hrs. Pte. 35235													
73868	Pte.	LAKE, William	41 Hrs. Pte. 1436	X												
35525	Sgt.	LAKE, William G.	18 Hrs. Sgt. 2552	X												
11414	Pte.	LAKE, Sherman H.	4 Hrs. Pte. 11414	X												
3596	Lt Col	LAKE, Robert	18 Hrs. Lt Col. 3596	X												
32167	Pte.	LAKE, John M.	18 Hrs. Pte. 32167	X												
37273	Pte.	LAKE, Alan L.	4 Hrs. Pte. 37273	X												
35047	Sgt.	LAKE, William E.	18 Hrs. Sgt. 35047	X												
35563	Pte.	LAKE, Edward	18 Hrs. Pte. 35563	X												

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place YORK.

Date 30th December, 1919.

Signed for Col. Head of Col. Hussars.

Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

SERVICE MEDAL ROLL

1/1st Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry[edit]

The 1st Line regiment was mobilised in August 1914 and attached to the [1st South Western Mounted Brigade](#). In September 1914, It was transferred to the [2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade](#), [2nd Mounted Division](#).^[12]

In 1915, it was deployed overseas to [Egypt](#), then onwards to participate in the [Dardanelles](#) campaign, where it served as dismounted troops and was involved in the [Battle of Gallipoli](#), the [Battle of Sari Bair](#) and the [Battle of Scimitar Hill](#).^[13]

After the evacuation of Gallipoli, it returned to Egypt in January 1916 and became part of the [6th Mounted Brigade](#), an independent brigade that was involved in the [Action of Agagia](#) in February 1916.^[14] At this battle, the retreating [Senussi](#) were attacked by the Dorset Yeomanry with drawn swords across open ground.^[15] Under fire, the Yeomanry lost half their horses, and about a third of their men and officers were casualties (58 of the 184 who took part). Colonel Soutar, leading the regiment in this charge, had his horse shot from under him and was knocked unconscious. When he came to, he found himself alone amongst a group of the enemy. He drew his revolver, shot several, and took the Turkish leader [Jaffir Pasha](#) prisoner.^[16]

In February 1917, 6th Mounted Brigade joined the [Imperial Mounted Division](#) and took part in the [First](#) and [Second Battles of Gaza](#). I, June 1917, it was transferred to the [Yeomanry Mounted Division](#) for the [Third Battle of Gaza](#) and the [Battle of Beersheba](#).^[12]

In July 1918, the Brigade was re-designated the [10th Cavalry Brigade](#) and the Division the [4th Cavalry Division](#). The Regiment remained with them in [Palestine](#) until the end of the war.^[12]

ABSENT VOTERS' LIST. YEOVIL DIVISION.

5

1	2	3	4	5
No.	Names in Full (Surname first).	Qualifying Premises.	Description of Service, Ship, Regiment, Number, Rank, Rating, etc., or recorded address.	No.
PARISH OF KINGWESTON.				
177	Dickinson, William Francis	Kingweston House	Capt., 1st Garr. Batt., Hants. Regt.	177
178	Charlton, Cuthbert Henry	Lower Street	41337 Pte., 1st Batt., D.C.L.I.	178
179	Charlton, William John	North Park	Stoker 41228 R.N., H.M.S. "Lupen"	179
180	Dabinett, Harold Edwin	Post Office	49583 Co.Q.M.S., M.G.C., 2nd Div. Bgd., 91, York St., Westminster	180
181	Merriott, Colin	Lower Street	27619 Sig., 10th Bn., K. Shrops. L.I.	181
182	Sawtell, Ellis John	Middle Farm	Sec.-Lt., King's Royal Rifles	182
183	Stenson, Sidney	High Street	47043 Pte., 15th Bn., E. Lancs. Regt.	183
184	Tapnell, Thomas William	The Lodge, Kingweston	208176 Pte., 25th Middx. Regt.	184
185	Willcox, Ralph	Lower Street	13545 Pte. 10th Devons	185

BUCKLAND ST. MARY Polling District (C).

PARISH OF BUCKLAND ST. MARY.

186	Every, Tom	Meanwood	26862 Pte., 4th S.W.B.	186
187	Hooper, James	Cross	527939 Pte., 652 Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	187
188	Pook, William	Blackwater	Dorset Rgt.	188
189	Spiller, Thomas John	Bugg's Moor	47372 7th W. Riding Rgt., E.C., No. 2 R.F.	189
190	Walter, Richard John Kenneth	Grange House	A.S.C.	190
191	Berry, William Devonport	Pinneys	4454 Tpr., Gds. M.G.C.	191
192	Collins, Wilfred Edgar	Little Forest	500078 Pte., 652 Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	192
193	Durman, Frederick Edwin	Redric Hill	620296 Gnr., 18th Bde. R.H.A.	193
194	Durman, William John	Redric Hill	108305, R.F.C.	194
195	Fayter, John	Coomsbury	27698, D.C.L.I.	195
196	Fayter, William Henry	Coomsbury Farm	72503 Pte., 31st Middx. Rgt.	196
197	Goodland, Ernest	Newtown	205262 Pte., 3rd Bn., Bedford	197
198	Greenslade, Cecil	Moorsick	95702 Gnr., Tank Cps., Alexandria	198
199	Greenslade Richard Samuel	Moorsick	Lieut., R.F.C.	199
200	Hardwell, James	Trott's Castle	R/3577, A.B. Drake Bn., R.N.D.	200
201	Harris, Thomas	Beehive Farm	120096 Pnr., 370 For. Coy., R.E.	201
202	Hoare, Gilbert	Lower Blindmoor	1994 Pte., 1st Royal Marines, R.N.D.	202
203	Hooper, Sydney Arthur	Castle Comfort	26759 Pte., 3rd S.L.I.	203
204	Hooper, Walter Robert	Castle Comfort	K/9742 Str., R.N., H.M.S. "Marlborough"	204
205	Knight, Arthur	Coal Furze	94224 Pte., 221 Coy., M.G.C.	205
206	Knight, Samuel	Meanwood	13835 Pte., S.L.I.	206
207	Lang, Albert Charles	Laurel Cottage	61134 Pte., 187th Coy., M.G.C.	207
208	Lang, William Henry	Laurel Cottage	230447 S.Q.M.S., 1/1st Dorset Yeo.	208
209	Love, Ernest	Little Hill	34000 Pte., 57 Agr. Coy., Lab. Cps.	209
210	Manning, James Henry	Eagle Tavern	266175, Devon Rgt.	210
211	Manning, William John	Eagle Tavern	266297, Devon Rgt.	211
212	Millman, Cecil Richard	Castle Farm	226190, R.F.A.	212
213	Millman, Horace John	Castle Farm	17238 Pte., 457th Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	213
214	Shire, Alfred Edward	Swaddle's Green	22450, 1st S.L.I.	214
215	Wyatt, Charlie	Keat's Mill	202170 Pte., 2/4th Bn., S.L.I.	215
216	Wyatt, Harry	Keat's Mill	(Discharged)	216

ABSENT VOTERS' LIST. YEOVIL DIVISION.

5

1 No.	2 Names in Full (Surname first).	3 Qualifying Premises.	4 Description of Service, Ship, Regiment, Number, Rank, Rating, etc., or recorded address.	5 No.
BUCKLAND ST. MARY Polling District (C).				
PARISH OF BUCKLAND ST. MARY.				
186	Every, Tom	Meanwood	26862 Pte., 4th S.W.B.	186
191	Berry, William	Devonport Pinneys		191
192	Collins, Wilfred Edgar	Little Forest	500078 Pte., 652 Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	192
193	Durman, Frederick Edwin	Redric Hill	620296 Gnr., 18th Bde. R.H.A.	193
194	Durman, William John	Redric Hill	108305, R.F.C.	194
196	Fayter, William Henry	Coomsbury Farm	72503 Pte., 31st Middx. Rgt.	196
197	Goodland, Ernest	Newtown	205262 Pte., 3rd Bn., Bedford	197
199	Greenslade Richard Samuel	Moorsick	Lieut., R.F.C.	199
201	Harris, Thomas	Beehive Farm	120096 Pnr., 370 For. Coy., R.E.	201
203	Hooper, Sydney Arthur	Castle Comfort	26759 Pte., 3rd S.L.I.	203
204	Hooper, Walter Robert	Castle Comfort	K/9742 Str., R.N., H.M.S. " Marlborough "	204
206	Knight, Samuel	Meanwood		206
207	Lang, Albert Charles	Laurel Cottage	61134 Pte., 187th Coy., M.G.C.	207
208	Lang, William Henry	Laurel Cottage	230447 S.Q.M.S., 1/1st Dorset Yeo.	208
209	Love, Ernest	Little Hill	34000 Pte., 57 Agr. Coy., Lab. Cps.	209
210	Manning, James Henry	Eagle Tavern	266175 Cpl., 1/6th Devon Rgt., No. 2 Wireless Sqdn., L. of C., Mesop.	210
211	Manning, William John	Eagle Tavern	266297, Devon Rgt.	211
212	Millman, Cecil Richard	Castle Farm	226190, R.F.A., 4th Training Depot, India	212
213	Millman, Horace John	Castle Farm	17238 Pte., 457th Agri. Coy., Lab. Cps.	213
214	Shire, Alfred Edward	Swaddle's Green	22450, 1st S.L.I.	214
215	Wyatt, Charlie	Keat's Mill	202170 Pte., 2/4th Bn., S.L.I.	215
216	Wyatt, Harry	Keat's Mill		216

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.		See INSTRUCTIONS.	
ADDRESS.		SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.		BIRTH.		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	
		No.	Sub No.			Day.	Year.		
8 Port Avenue		198	3	Hollingsworth Hilda		10	98	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.									
9		199	1	Lang William H.		10	92	Iron foundry checks	
			2	Lang Laura E.		10	91	Domestic duties unpaid	
This record is officially closed.									
10		200	1	Hartford Reginald J.		17	5	Engineering progress clerk	
			2	Hart George		15	54	Civilian Aero engine fitter	
			3	Hart Gladys		16	17	Housewife's duties unpaid	
11		201	1	Goodall Douglas H.		17	17	Aeroplane metal rigger	
			2	Murrell Albert E.		17	00	Foreman A.O.S. War Dept.	
			3	Murrell Kathleen		03	03	unpaid domestic duties	
			3	Murrell Ronald E.		24	5	electrician apprentice tool	
This record is officially closed.									
This record is officially closed.									
12 Port Avenue		202	1	Holland Gladys M.		13	13	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.									
Entry Cancelled Re-entred on Page 20		3		Read J. J.		23	18	Aircraft rigger	
This record is officially closed.									
13		203	1	Jorles Lilian J.		07	14	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.									
Page 20		3		Jorles William J.		10	10	Senior Wagon A.R.P. Inspector	
			2	Robinson James G.		05	10	Civilian aero engine fitter	
			2	Robinson Mabel		05	10	Housewife's duties unpaid	
15		205	1	Johns Edith E.		07	14	domestic duties unpaid	
This record is officially closed.									
This record is officially closed.									
This record is officially closed.									
16		206	1	Finney Robert J.		12	94	maintenance fitter	
			2	Finney Lilian A.M.		12	92	unpaid domestic duties	
17		207	1	Watson William G.		12	12	Engineering fitter Railway tools	
			2	Watson Miss M.M.		12	15	unpaid domestic duties	
This record is officially closed.									
18		208	1	Marson Arthur L.		05	5	Aero engine fitter	
			2	Marson Ellen E.		11	5	school teacher	
			3	Tyler William J.		17	79	Temporary storekeeper	
			3	Tyler Florence E.		17	83	domestic duties unpaid	
			3	Tyler Nora E.		09	8	Electrical Engineer	
			3	Tyler Peter E.		19	8	Engineering engraver	
19		209	1	Townsend Frederick E.		19	98	Engineering tool grinder	
			2	Townsend Kathleen E.		05	11	Household duties unpaid	
This record is officially closed.									
This record is officially closed.									
			5	Jones Brian Emrys		15	5	Engineering fitter H.V.	
			6	Ladd Kate		16	76	retired	