



Great War in the Villages Project

JOSEPH EDWARD HUGHES, MM:

Died on Monday 2nd December 1918.

Age 28, Sergeant, "D" Battery, 126th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Joseph was not an Ettington man, having been born in Canning Town, London in 1890, the son of George William and Henrietta Hughes. However before departing for the Dardanelles in March 1915 he was married to Amy Grantham, the daughter of Edwin Grantham of Kents Lane.

On his way to the Dardanelles, his ship was attacked by a Turkish torpedo boat. The vessel was not sunk but he was thrown overboard in the attack and was three hours in the water before managing to get back on board. He had joined the colours well before the war, in about 1908, and was serving in India when the war started.

Award of Military Medal

While on the Gallipoli Peninsula, with the rank of Corporal, he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery and devotion to duty, when under heavy shelling he had gone out to repair telephone lines to maintain communications with the battery.

During a home leave in early 1918 his wife Amy conceived their only son who was born towards the end of the year and was named Joseph. Sadly the child never saw his father and his mother Amy died during or shortly after the birth.

The cause of his Joseph's death is unknown. He actually survived the war only to die three weeks after Armistice Day. He was buried in France at the Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

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