

## **JAMES DOUGLAS HODDING**

### **Birth 1899**

He was the elder son of Major James Sweet Hodding and Alice Mary of Duncan, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.

James was a native of Southsea, Portsmouth and left British Columbia to serve.

Their younger son, Aubrey Vyvyan Hodding (1900–71), also served in the First World War, in the Canadian Mounted Rifles

*James Douglas's father, Lieutenant James Sweet Hodding had been promoted through the British Indian Army ranks and was eventually made a major in the 80th Carnatic Infantry, as announced in the London Gazette of May 1906. Three sons were born in Madras, although one died in infancy. By 1911 the family was back in England, at Kingston upon Thames, although shortly after this they emigrated to Vancouver, Canada, where their descendants still live.*

*His Mother's parents were Mary Mackenzie and Edward Smyth and they had two daughters born in Cork, Ireland – Alice and Marion.*

*Alice Mary Smyth arrived on 17 December 1870 and was born at home, 2 The Park, Queenstown. She grew up in Plymouth, England after the family returned there when she was two years old.*

*She must have moved to Portsea with her mother, after the death of her father, as in April 1896 she became a colonial army wife when she married James Sweet Hodding (Jim, 1867–1930). He was a twenty-nine-year-old lieutenant, born in Cananore and serving in the Madras Infantry. Amongst the witnesses at their Portsea wedding were Mary's sister Olive Spencer Smyth and brother-in-law Henry Baker Hall.*

*Before her death in Vancouver in May 1967, at the grand age of ninety-six, Alice Mary must have been Lazarus's (see the web address below) last surviving grandchild, and she had been geographically far removed from the rest of the family and so probably had little contact with her many cousins in England.*

*She is buried in Colwood, just outside Victoria, BC*

**Second Lieutenant, HODDING, JAMES DOUGLAS of "A" Coy. 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers was Gazetted 28th May, 1915.**

**Died 10/07/1916, Aged 17 at the Somme**

**He is buried in HEILLY STATION CEMETERY, MERICOURT-L'ABBE [I. E.11] (France).**

### **War Service:-**

Most of James's service must have been in the horrors of the Battle of the Somme. It was the early days of Trench Warfare when the idea of moving forward in a straight line was recognised to be a disaster but the senior military personnel did not seem to know what else to do. Sadly he died 9 days into the battle.

### **Memorials**

He is remembered at Heilly Station Cemetery and at St Margaret's Church, Lee.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/lazarusrobertshistory/lazarus-roberts-1790-1873-1/lazarus-s-children/mary-mackenzie-roberts>)