

## **William Crawshay Loder-Symonds**

**Captain**

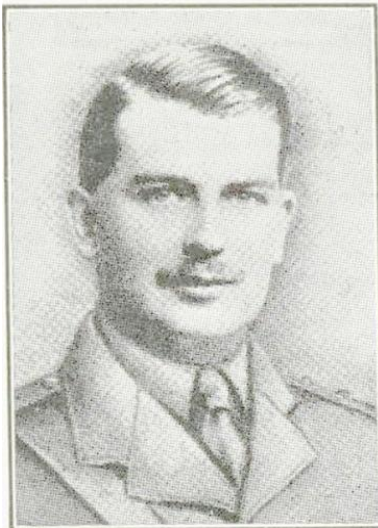
**Wiltshire Regiment attached to Royal Air Force (ex Royal Flying Corps)**

**Died 30 May 1918, aged 32**

William Crawshay Loder-Symonds was the son of Capt. Frederick Cleave Loder-Symonds (1846-1923) and Elizabeth Isabel Emily Parland (1854-1917), of Hinton Manor, Faringdon and the husband of Melloney Loder-Symonds, of Butlers Farm, Beenham (married 2nd quarter 1918, Bradfield). Interestingly, Melloney was the daughter of William Wheat Waring of Beenham House; her brother, Edward Robert Waring had been killed in 1914 and is also commemorated on the war memorial.

William was born 19 August 1886 his birth registered in the last quarter in Faringdon and educated at Bedford Grammar School between January 1902 and end of the summer term 1904. In 1891 the family were living at Hinton Manor, Hinton Waldrist, Berkshire where William's father Frederick 44 was a magistrate, retired officer, and farmer living on his own means. William's mother Elizabeth 37 was born in Breconshire. William's siblings were given as Frederick 14, who was a Naval Cadet, born in India, Mabel 12 born in India, May 10 born in India, Robert age 7 born in Hinton Waldrist, and Edith age 11 months also born in Hinton Waldrist. William was recorded as aged 4 born in Hinton Waldrist.

In the 1911 census return for men in the Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, William appears as 24 years old, single and as a Lieutenant in the Wiltshire Regiment.



William received his commission in the Wiltshire Regt. from the Militia in May 1908 and between May and September that year served at home. He was posted to the East Indies between September 1908 and December 1909 and whilst there was promoted to Lieutenant on 27 March 1909. He was in South Africa 14 Dec to 1 Feb 1911 before returning home 2 Feb 1911 to 31 Jan 1912.

On 14 August 1914 as a Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment he was posted to France; in October of that year he was promoted to Captain.

He was taken prisoner of war on August 24th, 1914, after being wounded in the thigh at Le Cateau, and was one of the first officers to be eligible for internment in Holland. He declined to give his parole and was sent to Schweidnitz, in Silesia. He was repatriated on 14 March 1918 and on his return was received by the King at Buckingham Palace. He married Melloney Waring (born 7 Dec 1897) in the 2nd quarter of 1918, registered Bradfield

"Flight" magazine of 6 June 1918 records: "Capt. W. CRAWSHAY LODER-SYMONDS, Wiltshire Regt., attached R.A.F., who escaped from Germany about 10 weeks ago, having been a prisoner of war since August 1914, was killed in a flying accident on May 30th". The accident happened when Capt. Loder-Symonds was attached to No 25 Training Squadron at Thetford while flying DH6 C6853.

His death was registered at Thetford in the 2nd quarter of 1918 and he is buried near north corner of St Margaret's church Hinton Waldrist.



Robert was awarded the Victory & War Medal in October 1920 and the Star in 1 August 1920. His widow, Melloney Mary Loder Symonds was still living in Butlers Farm in the 1939 census, described as a widow.

#### Post script

William was born into a wealthy middle class family, whose father, Captain Frederick Cleave Symonds (1846-1923), of the Royal Artillery, often saw overseas commissions. Frederick assumed the name "Loder-Symonds" by Royal Licence in 1881 on succeeding to the estate of the Loder family in Berkshire.

The Loder-Symonds family certainly saw more than their share of wartime tragedy. Three of William's brothers were also killed during the Great War.

Major John Frederick Loder-Symonds b. c 1874, d. 31 Oct 1914

Captain Frederick Parland Loder-Symonds b. 1877, d. 1952

Mabel Lily Annette Loder-Symonds b. 1879

May Penelope Loder-Symonds b. 1881, d. 12 Sep 1918

Robert Francis Loder-Symonds b. 1884, d. 3 Mar 1915

William Crawshay Loder-Symonds<sup>1</sup> b. 1887, d. 30 May 1918

Edith Violet Loder-Symonds b. 1891, d. 1973

Thomas Lenthall Loder-Symonds<sup>1</sup> b. 1893, d. 9 May 1915