

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AUBREY DALLAS PERCIVAL HODGES (1861-1946). C.M.G.,
M.B. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.), M.D. (Lond.). - Principal Medical Officer, Uganda
Protectorate.**

“His research into the habits and life-history of the tsetse fly did much to solve the problem of dealing with the fly and the control of sleeping sickness in early days.”

British Medical Journal (1946).

Aubrey Hodges (1861-1946) [Epsom College 1870-1877] was an early pioneer of tropical medicine, working principally in Uganda and East Africa. He was the son of H. B. Hodges, a surgeon, of Watton, in Hertfordshire, and brother of Dr Herbert Chamney Hodges [Epsom College 1870-1875], and the Rev. Alexander Vaux Hodges, M.A. [Epsom College 1874-1877], and father of Major Aubrey Davis Hodges [Epsom College 1926-1930]. He entered Epsom College at the early age of nine years, and in his final year was a member of the Rugby XV. He completed his medical training at the London Hospital, graduating M.B. in 1890, and after the usual medical residencies was appointed Resident Medical Officer at the South-East Fever Hospital at New Cross. In 1898, he was appointed Medical Officer in Uganda by the Foreign Office and recorded that his salary for this appointment was £ 450 per annum. From 1908 until 1918 he was Principal Medical Officer for the Uganda Protectorate and Medical Officer in charge of the Sleeping Sickness (*Trypanosomiasis*) Extended Investigation. During the First World War he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the East Africa Expeditionary Force, Commanding the Uganda Medical Service. It was during this period that he also served as Assistant Director of Medical Services for the Uganda Protectorate. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Aubrey Hodges' original work on the life-history and bionomics of the tsetse fly (*Glossina* spp.) was very important and in many ways paved the way towards the eradication and understanding of sleeping sickness. This work was published as a report: *Observations relating to the transmission of Sleeping Sickness in Uganda, etc.* (Royal Society, Sleeping Sickness Bureau, London, 1909). His diaries are deposited in the library of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. They are extremely readable and provide a clear insight into conditions encountered in East Africa at the turn of the twentieth century. He described in some detail his encounters with warring tribesmen and the result of punitive expeditions against them: “We shot 45 of them and captured 25 women and children.” He also described in fine detail the flora and fauna of Uganda as well as his adventures while big game hunting. In 1899, he played cricket for Uganda against East Africa and noted with relish that he took six wickets during the match. In his obituary it was written: “Apart from his skill as a doctor and administrator of his department, he was a scientist and naturalist of no mean order.”