Herbert Booker





Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 12618

Regiment: - Irish Rifles

Died of Bronchial pneumonia awaiting discharge: - 6th January 1919 aged 36 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire H 624

Batley Reporter, 24 Aug 1917, 26 Apr 1918, 10 Jan 1919 (photo). Batley News, 27 Apr 1918, 11 Jan 1919

Family Details

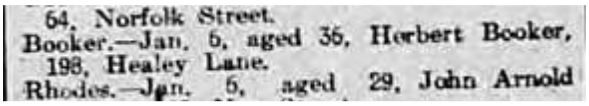
Herbert was born in Armley, Leeds on 6th May 1882 the son of Mathew and Charlotte Booker nee Hemsley who had married on 25th Nov 1872 at Tadcaster. He was baptised at St. James, Seacroft on 6th January 1884 when the address given was Whinmoor, Seacroft and his father's occupation was a labourer.

In 1891 the family was living at Scholes, Barwick-in- Elmet and the census states that Matthew was an agricultural labourer, born in Collingham with children Mary Ann born in 1873 in Sherburn, Bertha 1877 in Micklefield, Herbert, Ada 1885 and Frank 1887 both born in Barwick. Hilda was born in Barwick in 1891. Edith was born in 1894 but sadly died shortly after she was born, as had, John Henry 1875, Joseph 1880, Tom1889 and Harold in 1898.

Within the next decade only Herbert and Hilda were still living with their parents at South Parade, Thorner near Wetherby and Herbert was employed as a domestic gardener.

In 1907 Herbert married Norah Emily Powell at Bromyard, Herefordshire and they, with his parents, moved to live in Batley. Squire was born in Batley in June 1908 followed by Harold in 1911 and Mary Caroline in 1913. The 1911 census shows Herbert and his family were living at 198, Healey Lane, Batley and he was working on his own account as a nurseryman and seeds-man.

His parents were living in nearby at 15, Healey Street, Healey and the census shows they had a total of 12 children but only 6 were still alive in 1911.


64, Norfolk Street.
Booker.—Jan. 5, aged 36, Herbert Booker,
198, Healey Lane.
Rhodes.—Jan. 5, aged 29, John Arnold

Service Details

Herbert enlisted on the 5th January 1917 and went to France in about April 1917.It was reported in the Batley News on 27th April 1918 that he was in hospital in Bradford suffering from serious wounds in the back and thigh.

His brother Frank was serving in France.

On the 23rd December 1918 Herbert was awarded the Silver War Badge due to the wounds he had received (W. 39.7) and discharged from the army. He died on the 6th January 1919 of bronchial pneumonia probably not knowing his discharged papers had been issued.

Sadly Matthew and Charlotte who lived at 15, Healey Street, Batley died in March 1919 and were both buried in the same grave as Herbert on 10th March 1919.

Times would have been hard for the family and there is no headstone but if he had not been discharged, he would have had a c.w.g.c. headstone.

Herbert was awarded the Silver War Badge (No. B 71944) because of his wounds, British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group