



Herbert Rowley

1888 -1916

Herbert was born in Hunslet, Leeds in 1888. His father was Samuel Rowley, a Cloth Fettler born in Earlsheaton in 1856 and died in 1943. His mother was Letitia (nee Hanson) born in Tillicoultry, Scotland in 1861 and died in 1919. They were married in 1881.

Their other children were; Garnet, born in Dewsbury in 1881, Stanley, born in Hunslet in 1883, Bertie, born in Hunslet in 1885, Annie, born in Hunslet in 1889 and Ernest, born in Hunslet in 1891 and was killed in action 10th April 1918.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 5, Milner Grove, Hunslet, in 1901 at Providence Street, Earlsheaton, in 1911 at Short Street, Chickenley and later at 71, Robinson's Yard, Earlsheaton.

In 1911 Herbert was living as a boarder at 137, Stockport Road, Bredbury, Stockport, Cheshire. He was married to Lucy Annie Palmer (born in Bredbury in 1891 and died in 1976) on 10th February 1916 at the Primitive Methodist Church, Woodley, Stockport, Cheshire. They lived at the home of his wife's parents at 171, Hyde Road, Woodley and did not have any children. Herbert had previously worked as a clerk in the Dewsbury Reporter Office, Wellington Road, Dewsbury and later as bookkeeper for Messrs Briddon and Fowler, Flour Mill Engineers, Bredbury.

He attested in October 1915 serving in the 19th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment serving as Private 26688. He was killed in action on 20th October 1916 during the Battle of the Somme when part of a draft of replacement troops held in reserve as the "Manchesters" occupied the British front line. The attack failed and troops were in retreat. During the night of 19th October the reserves carried boxes of hand grenades to nearby troops. They were under constant heavy shellfire and trenches were deep in mud and in shocking condition. On the morning of the 20th a Commanding Officer's inspection of the trenches found eight men killed, thirty one wounded, and three missing. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Herbert is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Memorial Tablet from the now demolished Earlsheaton Highfield Congregational Church relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury and on the Bredbury and Romiley War Memorial, Stockport, Cheshire.

In Memory of

Private

Herbert Rowley

26688, 19th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 20 October 1916 Age 28

Husband of Lucy Annie Rowley, of 171, Hyde Rd., Woodley, Stockport.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

