



## **Herbert Spink**

### **1893 - 1917**

Herbert was born in Leeds in 1893. His father was Robert Spink, a plumber born in Leeds in 1861 and died in 1943. His mother was Mary (nee Wild) born in Leeds in 1866 and died in 1956. They were married in All Saints Church, Richmond Hill, Leeds on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1884.

Their other children were; George Thomas, born in 1884, Robert, born in 1887, Fred, born in 1891, Elizabeth, born in 1897, Ernest, born in 1899 and Willie, born in 1901. All their eldest sons served in World War 1, George, who was a reservist being seriously wounded in 1914. Willie enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1921.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 13, Devon Terrace, Leeds, in 1911 at 9, Glendale Grove, Leeds. They later lived at 479, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and were still living there in 1939.

Herbert was a single man who was educated at York Road Board School, Leeds and moved to Dewsbury when he was 15. He worked as a cinema operator at the Dewsbury Hippodrome.

He enlisted in May 1915 serving as Private 64056 in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and was sent to the Western Front France on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1915. He died of wounds in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Brandhoek in Belgian Flanders on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 whilst attached to the 111<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. He was buried in Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No. 3, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, Brandhoek was within the area comparatively safe from shell fire which extended beyond Vlamertinghe Church. Field ambulances were posted there continuously. Until July 1917 burials had been made in the Military Cemetery, but the arrival of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian and 44<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations, in preparation for the new Allied offensive launched that month, made it necessary to open the New Military Cemetery. The New Military Cemetery No 3 opened in August and continued in use until May 1918. Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No 3 contains 975 First World War burials.

Herbert is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

## Herbert Spink

64056, 111th Field Amb, Royal Army Medical Corps who died on 16 August 1917 Age 23

Son of Robert and Mary Spink, of 479, Leeds Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No.3



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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