



Herbert Fox

1878 - 1917

Herbert was born in Gate Helmsley, Yorkshire on 9th March 1878. His father was Thomas Fox born in Pocklington, Yorkshire around 1848 and died in 1883. His mother was Hannah (nee Leak) born in Riccall near Selby around 1848 and died in 1905. They were married in York in 1871.

Their other children who can be traced were; Thomas Charles, born in 1876 and served in World War 1, Edwin/Edward, born in 1880, Ernest, born in 1881 and Hubert Harold, born in 1882.

Hannah was remarried in 1889 to a George Chumbley (born in Chesterfield around 1850 and died in Dewsbury in 1917). They had a daughter, Annie Chumbley, born in Leeds in 1890 and died in 1892. On the 1891 Census they lived at 112, Meadow Lane, Leeds and in 1901 at 12, Albert Square, Batley.

Herbert was in a Common Law Marriage with Nancy Walker but nothing regarding her life has been found. Their address was given as 19, Milton Street, Batley Carr. On Army Form WO 5080 dated 8th October 1919, Mrs. Nancy Walker declares a child, George Herbert Fox, born 15th June 1902 but no birth or death details can be found. On the same document, Nancy Walker also states that Herbert had two brothers, Tom and Harold. A newspaper article stated that he left a widow and two children.

His occupation was as a willeyer for Messrs Oldroyd Bros, Batley Carr.

He enlisted on 7th September 1914 serving as Private 7351 in the 9th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment and worked as a cook. In 1915 he was posted to the Gallipoli Campaign and spent nine months in Egypt and from August 1916 in France. He died of a ruptured valve of the heart in the 35th General Hospital in Calais on Sept 14th 1917 and was buried in Calais Southern Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Calais Southern Cemetery is a civil cemetery lying on the south of the old main road to Dunkerque (Dunkirk). In April 1915, No.6 Base Supply Depot was started at Calais to help relieve the pressure on Boulogne and to provide a base nearer to the front than Le Havre or Rouen. The base remained open until the last Commonwealth forces left France in March 1921. The 30th, 35th and 38th General Hospitals, No.9 British Red Cross Hospital and No.10 Canadian Stationary Hospital were also stationed in the town, providing about 2,500 beds. From May 1915 to March 1918, Commonwealth burials were made in Calais Southern Cemetery. Subsequent interments were made in the new military cemetery at Les Baraques. The cemetery now contains 721 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 Fox

7351, 9th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 03 September 1917 Age 39

Son of Hannah and Thomas Fox; husband of Nancy Walker (formerly Fox) of Batley Carr, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Calais Southern Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Find a Grave.