



Herbert Wilson

1894-1918

Herbert was born in Dewsbury in 1894. His father was Joseph Talbot Wilson, a Cloth Weaver born in Dewsbury in 1866 and died in 1927. His mother was Susan (nee France) born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1924. They were married in 1892.

Their other children were; Ellen, born in 1899 and Edith, born in 1905.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 26, Russell Street, Westborough, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 24, Russell Street.

Herbert was employed as a Drayman at the Dewsbury Great Northern Railway Company; he was married to Mary Chappel (born in Earlsheaton in 1894 and died in 1942) at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 10th May 1913. They had 2 daughters; Doris, born in 1913 and Minnie, born in 1915. They lived at 12, Woodbine Street, Dewsbury and later at 32, South Woodbine Street, Dewsbury.

Mary was remarried in Leeds on 9th June 1919 at Leeds to Walter Stubbs (born in 1897 and died in 1924). They had a son, George Stubbs, born in 1920 and died in 1923. She was married for a third time in 1924 to John Lofthouse (born in 1890 and died in 1952). They had two children, Mary Mollie Lofthouse, born in 1930 and Kenneth Lofthouse, born in 1932.

Herbert was a pre-war Territorial and according to a newspaper report; *“at the outbreak of hostilities he was mobilized with other local Territorials”*. He rose to the rank of Lance Corporal 200067 in the 4th Reserve Battalion King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with previous Service Numbers 1503 and 1307. He was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915, was gassed twice and wounded three times. The gas poisoning was the underlying cause of his subsequent breakdown in health, and around April 1918 he went into an Army hospital at Folkestone, being later transferred to a convalescent centre at Eastbourne. From there he had ten days’ leave and died at his mother’s home, 24, Russell Street, Westborough on 17th October 1918 from pneumonia and heart disease caused by war service; he was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Herbert is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter’s Church, Earlsheaton.

The modest nature of his funeral was a disappointment locally; an article appeared in the Dewsbury Reporter on 26th October, part of which read:

“A SOLDIER’S HONOUR. TO THE EDITOR OF THE ‘REPORTER’.

On Sunday I went to see the remains of this brave man (who had withstood three winters on the Western Front) put in his last resting place, but was surprised at the military arrangements made in his honour. A few men were dispatched from the A.O.C., and the flag that covered the coffin had been brought by a thoughtful neighbour. If this is the tribute our men have to expect from the local military and Corporation authorities, after fighting our battles for three-and-a-half years, then I along with others consider that this is a poor acknowledgment after giving their all, their life, for their country. – Yours, etc. W.B. “

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
H Wilson

200067, 4th Reserve Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 17 October 1918

Remembered with Honour
Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

