



Hubert Barker Oldfield

1891-1918

Hubert was born in Chickenley, Dewsbury in 1891. His father was Albert Oldfield, a Rag Grinder born in Potovens, Wakefield in 1856 and died in 1926. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Eastwood) born in Horbury in 1856 and died in 1932. They were married in Dewsbury in 1887.

Their other children were; Percy, born in Ossett in 1889 and served in World War 1, Archer, born in Chickenley in 1893 and died in 1912 and Willie, born in Chickenley in 1895 and also served in World War 1 despite being only 4 feet 11 inches tall.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 51, Commercial Road, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 56, Lidgate Lane, Dewsbury and later at 1, Lower Cross Street, Dewsbury.

Hubert was educated at Carlton Road and Warwick Road Council Schools. He attended Dewsbury Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday school and was a member of the school's football club. He later worked as a Cloth Cutter for Messrs J. Auty and Co. Woollen Manufacturers, Batley.

He enlisted in November 1915 serving as Private 12/2311 in the 2nd/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in June 1916; after 10 months service he was invalided home suffering from Septic Poisoning, returning to the front around July 1916. He was killed in action near Reims in France on 20th July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Hubert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. Here, at the end of May 1918 the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. The Allied counter attack drove back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.

Hubert is also 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

Hubert Barker Oldfield

12/2311, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 July 1918 Age 27

Son of Albert and Elizabeth Oldfield, of 1, Lower Cross St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Soissons Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

