



Herbert Senior

1882 - 1917

Herbert was born at Cross Street, Earlsheaton on 16th January 1882. His father was William Senior, a Coal Agent born in Dewsbury in 1855 and died in 1917. His mother was Fanny Senior (nee Young) born in Earlsheaton in 1857 and died in 1905. They were married in Dewsbury in 1879.

They had another son; James Edward, born in 1880.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Cross Street, Earlsheaton, in 1891 at New Street, Earlsheaton and in 1901 at Mount Pleasant, Earlsheaton.

William was remarried on 26th December 1906 to Hannah Speight (born in 1861) at the Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Chapel. In 1911 he was recorded as a keeper of a boarding house at 10, Claremont Avenue, Blackpool.

Herbert worked as an electric tram driver and was married to Annie Croft (born in 1882 and died in 1944) on 25th September 1909 at Highfield Congregational Church, Earlsheaton. In 1911 they were living with Annie's family at Wakefield Road, Earlsheaton and they later lived at 15, Fairfield Avenue, Old Bank Road, Earlsheaton. They had two children, Ronald, born in 1911 and William, born in 1913. In 1921 Annie and her two sons were living at 33, Commercial Street, Earlsheaton.

He attested on 5th August 1914 serving as Private 2301 in the 4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He was discharged from the Army on 4th September 1916 on grounds of being no longer physically fit for war service under King's Regulations, section 21 (xvi). He was issued with Silver War Badge Number 142963 on 13th March 1917. The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. Sadly, this arrived a few weeks after his death. He died on 8th February 1917 in the Leeds General Infirmary from Pemphigus (severe blistering of the skin) and chronic nephritis. He was buried in his parents' grave in Earlsheaton Cemetery. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Although his wife Annie and his brother James are also buried in the family grave, only the names of his mother Fanny and his father William are inscribed on the headstone.

Herbert was not initially recorded as a War Casualty in the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. There were a number of possibilities for this omission; perhaps his family did not inform the correct authority or that his cause of death was deemed at the time to be not related to his reason for discharge. The crucial wording "attributed to" or "caused by" Army service does not appear on his death certificate nor his service and discharge records.

In 2017 when pension records became available online, Dewsbury Sacrifices submitted his case to the relevant authorities but this was initially rejected. In 2020 the criterion was relaxed and the case was resubmitted. On 13th October 2023 his name was added to the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and in June 2025 a Commission Headstone was erected.

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 War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Memorial Tablet from the now demolished Highfield Congregational Church, Earlsheaton relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory Of
Private

HERBERT SENIOR

Service Number: 2301

1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 February 1917

Remembered with Honour

DEWSBURY (EARLSHEATON) CEMETERY

CS. "U." 147.

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COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

