



Woodford Remembers



Pte. Herbert Andrew Betts

December 1875 – 12 December 1914

Family

Herbert's father, William Betts was born in Woodford in 1835 and his mother Mary Wilkins was born in Hardwick in 1832. The couple married in April 1860 at Woodford. Mary was living in Twywell at the time, and following their marriage the couple moved to Twywell where their first child, Elizabeth was born 1861, followed by John, William, Joseph and lastly Herbert in 1873 who was born in Woodford where the family had moved to in the late 1860s living near the Upper Green close to the Dukes Arms. William worked as a stationary engine driver, but died in May 1893 at the age of 58. By 1901 his widow and three children moved to the High Street north of Sunnyside.

Herbert joined the Northamptonshire Regiment as regular soldier serving for a number of years (see below). On leaving the army he married Emma Rudkin of Woodford on 20 June 1907 in St Mary's Church. The couple lived in Newtown and Herbert worked as an Ironstone Quarryman. They had two children, Ernest (born 13 December 1911) and Kathleen (b 28 April 1913 – d 17 January 1917).

Army Service

Herbert had originally joined the Northamptonshire Regiment as a regular soldier (3817) and served in India for over eleven years being awarded the India Medal and gaining three campaign clasps. (North West India campaign in the late 1890s.

Herbert rejoined the regiment (16277) in Kettering along with a number of other Woodford men on 16 November 1914 at the age of 39 years and 11 months. His company quickly transferred to Weymouth where he was hospitalised on 24 November with influenza, where he remained until 7 December. Two days later he was readmitted with influenza and pneumonia and died on 12 December 1914.

Burial / grave

Weymouth Cemetery, Dorset, Grave B C 2260.

Dependants

Wife, Emma and two children, Ernest and Kathleen. The family moved from High Street to Church Green in 1915 and his widow was awarded a pension of 21/- per week from June 1915

Commemoration

Woodford War Memorial Village Green

Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial

Northampton Mercury 18 December 1914

"We have to record that Mr Herbert Betts who had previously been a soldier and who volunteered about three weeks ago died on Saturday at Weymouth. His wife was summoned but Mr Betts died before she could get there. Great sympathy is felt by all the village for the bereaved family. There are two children."



India Medal (left)
Gravestone at Weymouth (right)

