



Woodford Remembers



Reginald Frederick Hobbs

6 April 1896 – 24 September 1918

Family

Reginald Frederick (known as both Reg or Fred) was the fifth child of Benjamin and Augusta (nee Hewitt) Hobbs of Spring Gardens Woodford. He was a nephew of Wilfred Hobbs (see Woodford Remembers, who was a younger brother of his father, Benjamin Hobbs). Benjamin (an army boot maker) and Augusta (sometimes known as Lillian) were married in Woodford on 10 July 1887. The family lived in Spring Gardens (off Bakers Lane)

Their first born was Albert Ernest born in 1888, who joined the Royal Artillery (26322) in 1907 and survived the war being discharged in 1919 having achieved the rank of corporal. He married Annie Oxenham in October 1917 and their first born was named Reginald (2 December 1918). Other siblings to Reg and Albert included Victor James (b 5 Jan 1892), Isabel (1889), Margaret (1894), Eva (1899), Aubrey (1900) and Arthur (1906).

Reg attended the Infant School in Woodford from 3 July 1899 moving to the mixed school (junior school) on 22 May 1903. On leaving school at about the age of 14 years he worked as an agricultural labourer. The family still lived in Spring Gardens in 1911 but by 1914 they had moved to a cottage in Church Green. The row of five cottages were burnt down on 4th February 1917 caused by a chimney fire inadvertently started by Reg's mother. The register of electors reveals that Reg's parents moved to Pig's Lane following this event, where Reg's father, Ben, still lived in 1939 as a widower.

(Reg was second cousin of Ernest Houghton i.e. they shared the same great grandparents)

Army Service

Reginald Frederick enlisted with the first battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment (16855) in Oundle and his number would suggest this to have been in the autumn of 1914. He was Killed in Action 24th September 1918

Burial / grave

Buried in Bellicourt British Cemetery, Grave IV.K.07.

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Woodford Village Memorial

Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial,

