



Woodford Remembers



Pte. Wilfred Hobbs

4th quarter 1879 – 23 October 1916

Family

Wilfred's father, Frederick was born in approximately 1840 in Little Addington and he married Isabelle Esther West (born in Middlesex) on 9th July 1860 at St Mary's Church Woodford. He was a lifelong bootmaker. In 1881 the family of parents and seven children lived in Church Green. The eldest child was Ben, together with Annie Mary, Walter, Eva, Wilfred and Agnes. In 1891 Maud had been born into the family. (Wilfred's elder brother, Ben was father to Reginald Frederick Hobbs see Woodford remembers. i.e. Wilfred was uncle to Reginald Hobbs) Wilfred was born in 1879 and was baptised at St Marys Church, Woodford on 11 January 1880. By 1901 all the children had left the family home with the exception of Wilfred, who at the age of 21 years was a Blast Furnace Labourer, at the Islip works. On 10 July 1905 Wilfred married Daisy Myrtle Lane of Banbury (b 31 August 1887). Their first child Walter was born on 19 October 1905, followed by Esther (9 November 1907) and Evelyn (1910-1911). Times were hard for the Hobbs family and in 1902 and 1908 Wilfred appeared before magistrates charged with game trespass (poaching).

Wilfred's father, Fred, died in 1914 whilst working in his workshop, and his mother following a fire which destroyed five cottages on 4th February 1917, moved to Godmanchester to live with her daughters. She celebrated her 100th birthday in January 1939, but passed away in July of that year.

Daisy, remarried in 1918, to Victor Ewen and moved to Essex

Army Service

Wilfred joined the 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Regimental number 17334. He first entered into France on 25 August 1915. The Northampton Chronicle and Echo records the fact he was wounded in September 1916. He is, in fact recorded as being wounded at least three times, 11th October 1915, 8th and 21st September 1916 being awarded a "wounded stripe" on each occasion. He was Killed in Action on 23 October 1916 in the Mild Trench north east of Guedecourt towards the end of the Battle of the Somme. He was posthumously awarded the 1914/15 star, War and Victory Medals.

Burial / grave

No known grave

Dependants

Wife Daisy, children Walter and Esther

Commemoration

Woodford Village Memorial

Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial

Thiepval Memorial, Somme, Panels 11A/11D.



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