

## 29814 Private Herbert Claude Northover 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment.



Herbert Claude Northover was born in Southampton during 1882, the second son of Simon and Matilda Northover (nee Rose). His parents were born in Sturminster Newton, Dorset, but must have moved to Southampton during 1873 to 1881. By 1891 the family were living at 142 Northam Road, Southampton; Simon was employed as a Foreman in a Timber Yard and his wife Matilda was caring for seven children at home. Between 1891 and 1901, the family had moved to 166 Northam Road, Southampton, but there are only four children living at home by this time; Herbert is employed as a hairdresser. By 1911 Herbert has left home and married Ada Pugh; they had five children, one girl and four boys.

When he enlisted at the beginning of World War One he was enrolled into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. He died on 23 April 1917, age 35 at Monchy-le-Preux, France east of Arras. According to the Battalion War Diary on the 22 April 'W', 'X', 'Y' & 'Z' Company's of the Hampshire's were in support of the Worcester's in an assault East of Monchy Road. They encountered heavy machine gun fire while crossing a sunken road and suffered heavy casualties. In the confusion 'X', 'Y' & 'Z' Company's went into the Worcester's line near a Copse west of Bois Du Vert. While 'W' Company went into PICK TRENCH and a platoon from 'X' Coy was in SHRAPNEL TRENCH between the Borders & Inniskilliens. At about 4 p.m. the enemy counter attacked S.E. of the Copse and drove back our right. The Battalion was eventually relieved at night, but 'W' Company was not relieved till the next night, 23 April. It was during this period of action Herbert was killed, his body never found.

At the time, he was a private, regimental number 29814. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 6 and was awarded the Victory and British War medals.



Squeak and Wilfred