

Herbert William Gurnett

Worcestershire Regiment 3rd Battalion

1899 - 1918



William Herbert Gurnett was born on 23rd Feb, 1899. He was the son of Ada Elizabeth Gurnett, but was brought up by his grandparents, William and Eliza Gurnett (nee Adams), who lived in Nearton End. In 1901, he was known as Bertie, and named on the census as the son of William and Eliza, although actually he was their grandson. His mother, aged 21, was working as a general servant for a builder, Henry Child, in Finchley, London.

In 1911, now called Herbert, he was still living with his grandparents, whilst his mother had married Walter Carl Calkin, a Greengrocer Carman, in 1906 (registered Jul – Sept in Barnet) and she was living with Walter and his cousin at 62, Station Road, Finchley. On the Census record, it says that she had no children of that marriage, which was correct.

Herbert enlisted in Bletchley, and initially was in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. At some point, he was transferred to the Royal Worcestershire Regiment, serving in the 3rd Battalion.

He died of wounds on 27th April 1918 and was buried at Haringhre (Bandaghem*) Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium. It is likely that he was fatally wounded during the course of the German Spring Offensive, which aimed to push the British Army back to the Channel. The 3rd Battalion were involved in a series of battles aimed at holding back the German advance.



Haringhre Military Cemetery, Poperinge

[*Note: Bandaghem, like Dozinghem and Mendinghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War.]

At the time of his death, Army records indicate that his next of kin, his mother Ada, was living at Long Lane, Church End, Finchley, London.



Herbert was awarded medals for his part in the war.



Headstone in the Haringhre Military Cemetery