

HERBERT CLARKE

...ing to fulfil the engagements made,
Herbert Clarke SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Herbert Clarke was born in Partney in 1893. His father Joseph was an agricultural labourer. He was baptised on 22nd October 1893 in St Nicholas Church along with his brother Albert.

The 1901 Census shows Herbert living with his family in Partney. By 1911 he was working as a blacksmith but still living at home in Partney.

Herbert enlisted in the East Yorkshire Regiment on 16th February 1916, six weeks before his brother Arthur joined up. His brother Albert joined the Royal Navy.

On enlistment, Herbert was working as a shoeing and general smith. He was aged 26 years and 60 days. He had already served in the 5th Lincolnshire Territorials. He was 5'5" tall and had a 38" chest.

The 5th (Cyclist) Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment was formed in August 1914 in Park Street, Hull. It remained in the UK throughout the war. Soon after forming it moved to Louth and thence in May 1915 to Withernsea.

Following the death of his brother, killed in action on 18th September 1916, Herbert's attitude appears to have changed. On 4th February 1917 he was found guilty of committing a nuisance in a public street in Grantham at 9.30pm whilst on duty, for which he was detained in the barracks for 3 days.

On 14th March 1917 in Belton Park he was found absent for 1 day and 13 hours whilst on active service for which he lost 7 days pay.

On 8th June 1917 Herbert was transferred to the 9th Agricultural Company East Yorks at Beverley.

He married May Anskey on 15th October 1917 and set up home at High Street, Witherwick nr Hull. He already had a son born on 18th July 1914, William Cuthbert Boyd.

Marriage did not appear to change his attitude to army life, as on 27th December 1917 he was absent without leave from farm work for a total of 26 days for which he forfeited 26 days pay.

On 6th August 1918 Herbert was found to have overstayed his pass and was therefore absent without leave. The Spilsby police apprehended him on 12th August. He was sentenced to 7 days detention and forfeited 6 days pay as a punishment.

Herbert was discharged on 21st May 1919 suffering from bronchitis. He was awarded a pension of 8s3d from 22nd May 1919 with an additional 3s6d for his two children. He was living at 10 Albion Terrace, Exthorpe, Doncaster.

He died in 1962 and was buried in Partney on 16th July 1962.