

Joseph Harrop

Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel

Returned

The Harrop family home



His Story

Joseph was born on 31/3/1895 in Holmes Chapel, though his father, William, a postman, came from Kemincham and his mother, Mary, came from Lower Withington.

In 1901 the Harrop family are recorded as living in Middlewich Road – presumably at this same house. By then Joseph would have been aged 6.

By 1911 Joseph, now 16, was working as a Railway porter—and this was the job till he joined up in 1914.

At some point after the war he moved to Eccles until 1928 where he married Annie Harris on 21st July 1923. In 1929, still a porter he moved to Bradwell and then Goostrey. They returned to Holmes Chapel around 1930 and lived at 5 Westmoreland Terrace until their deaths. He retired after 40 years with the railways, finally as a signalman.

Joseph died on 29th July 1980 aged 85.

His War Record

Joseph joined the Royal Marines on 19th September 1914 and after a period of training in Plymouth he was serving abroad by August 1915. He served in Gallipoli where he saved the life of an Australian soldier, (After the war they wrote to each other for many years).

On 10th December 1915 he was wounded in Gallipoli (bullet wound to buttock and right foot) but was doing well in hospital in Portsmouth. By June 1916 the Parish Magazine reported he was making good progress in hospital. Yet this was not enough, as Private J Harrop was discharged invalided from the Royal Marine Light Infantry on October 6th 1916.