

Herbert Henry Upton

Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel

Killed in Action 9th August 1915

Location of the house where the Upton family lived



The house had two living rooms and two bedrooms and shared the yard with the adjacent three cottages. This contained a wash house and privy.

His Story

Herbert Upton was born in November 1886 to John and Hannah Upton. John was a general labourer. In 1901 'Harry' was living at home and working as a horticultural mechanic but by 1911 he had left home and joined the army. At that time he was serving at Timugherry, India, with the 2nd Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry aged 24.

When he died the Congleton Chronicle recorded his memorial service . "A memorial service was held at St. Luke's on Wednesday evening. The Home Guards, followed by the Cadets, marched to the church. An impressive service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J.H. Armitstead. The attendance included the deceased's father and mother, two sisters and two brothers, one of the latter being in Khaki. There is another serving with the colours

His War Record

He must have returned from India because in October 1914 he was reported in the Parish Magazine to have joined the 3rd Shropshire Light Infantry with Nr 8738. In August 1915 he was serving abroad but in

hospital and 'going along well' . In September Lance Sergeant Upton was reported to have been killed in action on 9th August 1915. He received the 1914/15 Star, Victory Medal and the War Medal. There is no known grave but he is recorded on Panel 47 and 49 Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence.