



Private Herbert George Rix was born in 1885 in the village of Hoddesdon Hertfordshire where his parents, Alfred and Mary Ann, were born too. In 1880 Alfred had married Mary Ann Plummer in St Pancras as Alfred almost certainly moved to London for work opportunities. The 1881 Census records that Alfred's profession was a 'gardener'. The young couple were living at 15 Gospel Oak Grove, St Pancras and their first child Alice was born in 1882, followed by Mary, Herbert (b1885) and baby of the family, Edith. By 1891 the family had moved out of London and were living at Rose Cottages on the Staines Road and the older children were all at school. In 1901 father Albert Rix, now 45 years old, was a Nursery Foreman and the family had moved to 1 London Road, South Western Terrace, Isleworth. Herbert was 16 years old and had a good job working as a Compositor (a person who arranges type for printing). His sister Alice was boarding at Sutton House in Heston and working as a domestic nurse, and his sister Mary was working at Heston Lodge as a domestic house maid. Edith was 13.

By 1911, this industrious family can be found living at the notable "Lodge" House in The Grove, Isleworth. This house was once at the main entrance to the very grand Spring Grove House and it was where Herbert's father Alfred Rix was now working as a gardener. Sister Alice had married and left home, Mary was working at the Pears factory, and Herbert was working as a clerk at the tramway company. Young Edith is a domestic.

There are no surviving service records for Herbert, but snippets of information do give some idea of his military history. We do know that Herbert was entitled to the British War the Victory medals, but not the 14 or 15 Star, so would have enlisted after 1915. He originally joined the 1/10th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, service number 4685. His battalion was stationed at Ravenscourt Park and were immediately mobilised for India until the end of the war. In July 1916 Herbert was back in the UK and married, **by special licence**, Florence Plummer in St Paul's Church Hoddesdon. The 'special licence' may have been issued because maybe Herbert was on home leave from India and had little time for traditional wedding preparations. Herbert then changed regiments! He transferred to 3rd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment (206612) which was stationed at Felixstow (where it had been since the start of the war).

Sadly Herbert died on 3rd Dec. 1919 whilst on 'demob furlough' – he was standing down from military activity, whilst on leave of absence. He died at home 45 Cecil Ave, Hounslow, with his father Alfred by his side. His death certificate gives the cause of death as "Capillary Bronchitis - 5 days". Sickness as well as battle wounds killed many soldiers. Herbert's family took him back to the village of Hoddesdon where they once enjoyed happier times. Herbert is acknowledged in the records of the CWGC of war deaths, but is buried in a simple grave with his wife Florence who died in 1942.



My dear husband Herbert George Rix who entered into rest December 3rd 1919 aged 34 years.