

Herbert William Bryant

Sapper, Royal Engineers. Enlisted at Cardiff, August 4th, 1915. Served in France and Belgium. Present at Ypres and German offensive, March, 1918. Wounded March 30th, 1918. Killed by the accidental explosion of a German mine in South Belgium, December 3rd, 1918. Buried at Soumoy, Belgium. General Service and Victory Medals.



HERBERT BRYANT WAS born in Corsham in 1894. His parents were William and Kate Amy (née Bath). His father was a stonemason and in 1901 they were living in Gastard. By 1911 the family, which included Herbert and three brothers, William, Lewin and Wilfred, had moved to South Street in Corsham. Herbert was by now an apprentice mason himself, while his younger brothers were still at school. He must then have moved to Wales and in 1915 in Cardiff he enlisted for the Army and was allocated to the Royal Engineers. He was married in 1916, also in Cardiff, to Lillian Gladys Smith.

Herbert saw service in both France and Belgium and although injured in 1918 he survived to the end of the war. Tragically he was one of six Royal Engineers who are reported to have died as a result of accidental injuries on 3rd December 1918 – almost a month after the Armistice. It is thought that as Royal Engineers they were conducting battlefield clearance work.

Soumoy Communal Cemetery in Belgium contains the graves of an officer and five men of the 206th Field Company,

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES



The graves of Herbert Bryant and his fellow Royal Engineers at Soumoy.

Royal Engineers, killed on 3rd December 1918 when the German ammunition they were salvaging exploded.

Herbert was a cousin of Frederick Bryant, who was in the London Regiment and was killed in action in France on 16th June 1917.



Plaque to Herbert Bryant in Corsham's former Congregational Chapel.