

## *Harold Baker*

Private, 1st Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment. Joined the Wiltshire Regiment at the Wilts Depot, later transferred to the Royal West Surrey Regiment. Served in France. Wounded April 1st, 1918. Died in hospital April 8th, 1918. Buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen. British War Medal.



**H**AROLD VICTOR HUGHIE BAKER WAS born in 1898 in Corsham to Frederick and Prudence (née Masters). Frederick, himself from Corsham, was a stone quarryman living on the High Street in Corsham near The Royal Oak with his wife, elder son Frederick and their daughters Beatrice, Kate and Mabel. Harold's mother Prudence died in 1899 (possibly in childbirth) and by 1901 the children had also been separated from their father, who was in prison in Devizes while Frederick, Kate, Mabel and Harold were living with their maternal grandmother Ann in Batcombe near Shepton Mallet. Their father Frederick died in 1903.

In 1911, aged 12, Harold was living with his brother Frederick and his family, but they emigrated to Canada in 1912. It is not clear what happened to Harold before he enlisted in the Army, but his service records show that he was living in Marshfield when he joined the Wiltshire Regiment. He was subsequently transferred to the Royal West Surrey Regiment. His service records confirm that he died on 7th April 1918 from wounds received in battle. He is buried in the St Sever Cemetery Extension in Rouen.

His brother Frederick also lost his life during the war.