

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Rank: Private

Discharged: 11th January 1918

8th Durham Light Infantry



Summary

Herbert Sykes family home was Hollin Hall, Upper Hopton where he was raised by his parents Arthur and Ellen Sykes. Herbert worked as a Fettler in a woollen mill.

Herbert served on the Western Front and survived the war but had to have both of his legs amputated. He was discharged in January 1918 age 22.

(Five Sykes brothers served in the war).

Both of his elder brothers lost their lives whilst serving on the Western Front. Walter in May 1917 and Willie in November 1918. The youngest brother Joe was wounded in 1917 and hospitalised, also gassed in 1918 and spent time in the Dewsbury War Hospital. He was discharged on the 21 May 1919. .

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Family details

Date of Birth	20th August 1894
Date of Baptism	11th January 1895
Church Baptised	St John's Upper Hopton
Father	Arthur 1860-1939
Father's occupation	Waste bleacher
Mother	Ellen (nee Mann) 1863-1935
Siblings	Alan, Alice, Ernest, Walter, Willie, Joseph, Lizzie, Annie, Nelly & Hilda (one child died in infancy)
Parents residence	Hollin Hall, Hopton (1911)
Soldiers residence	Hollin Hall After the war Herbert lived at Woodrow (Nippin Row), Jackroyd Lane
Soldiers Occupation	Fettler - Woollen Mill
Married	
Spouse	
Children	
Burial / Memorial	Registration district of DEWSBURY 1st quarter 1980
Age at death	85 (died in the quarter January to March 1980)

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Sykes family 1911 Census

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in the spaces provided, and the figures in the boxes.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards	EDUCATION	RELIGION	INFIRMITY
Herbert Sykes	Head	40	Married	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Ellen Sykes	Wife	42	Married	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Edith Sykes	Daughter	25	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Ernest Sykes	Son	21	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Willie Sykes	Son	19	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Walter Sykes	Son	18	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Herbert Sykes	Son	16	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Joseph Sykes	Son	12	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Ernest Sykes	Daughter	11	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Edith Sykes	Daughter	9	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Willie Sykes	Daughter	8	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	
Hilda Sykes	Daughter	4	Single	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	Waste Blanket Maker	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Herbert Sykes*

Post Address: *Upper Hopton, Hopton, Lancashire*

Herbert's brothers

Two his elder brothers lost their lives whilst serving on the Western Front.

Walter in May 1917 and Willie in November 1918.

Alan and Ernest were both coal miners and no records could be found about their military service. Ernest was buried at St Johns church Upper Hopton on the 1 April 1929 age 40.

The youngest brother, Joe was born on the 17 July 1898. He enlisted in the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment (Reg. No. 63556), rank Private. He was wounded in 1917 and hospitalised, also Gassed in 1918 and spent time in the Dewsbury War Hospital. He was discharged on the 21 May 1919.


On the 10th February 1934, Joe married Hilda Brewer at St. Pauls Church, Eastthorpe. The marriage certificate states that he was a railway man and still living at Northgate.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Military Details

Attestation / Enlistment	12th December 1915
Deployment	Home 12-12-1915 to 3-10-1916, France 4-10-1916 to 19-3-1917, Home 20-3-1917 to 11-1-1918. Medical records states, "amputation to both legs below knees".
Rank	Private
Medals	King's Certificate & Silver War Badge British War Medal Victory Medal
Regiment number	301800 (formerly 30/378 & 6145)
Regiment	8th Durham Light Infantry formerly 30th Northumberland Fusiliers, Infantry
Regimental Badge	
Discharged	11th January 1918 age 22
Cemetery or Memorial	
Age at death	85 (died in the quarter January to March 1980)

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Durham Light Infantry

Trench warfare and new weapons led to huge numbers of casualties in the first world war. In September 1914 the 2nd Battalion lost as many men in one day as the entire Regiment had lost in the Boer war. In spring 1915 the Territorial's, fighting at Ypres, lost a third of their strength in just a few weeks. The battle to the Somme in 1916 was, for the new battalions of volunteers, a baptism of fire. On 1st July the "Durham Pals" (18th Bn DLI) lost over half their strength killed or wounded.

The Durham Light Infantry fought in every major battle of the great war - at Ypres, Arras, Messines, Cambrai, on the Somme and in the mud of Passchendaele. The cost to the regiment was horrific with nearly 13,000 men dead and thousands more gassed, wounded or taken prisoner.

1/7th & 1/8th Battalion Territorial Force

17.04.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne.

14.05.1915 Formation became the 151st Brigade of the 50th Division

1915 - The Battle of St Julien, The Battle of Frezenburg Ridge, The Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge.

16.11.1915 Became the Pioneer Battalion of the 50th Division

1916 - The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Morval, The Battle of the Transloy Ridges.

1917 - (October 1916 to March 1917 was the period in which Herbert served in France)

The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Capture of Wancourt Ridge, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, The Second Battle of Passchendaele.

20.06.1918 Transferred to the 8th Division.

1918 - The Battle of St Quentin, The actions at the Somme crossings, The Battle of Rosieres, The actions of Villers-Bretonneux, The Battle of the Aisne 1918, The Battle of the Scarpe, The Final Advance in Artois.

11.11.1918 Ended the war at Harchies N.E. of Conde, Belgium.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Herbert's Attestation / enlistment papers for the army

Herbert Sykes
(P. 5028) Wt. n. 13000-4672 3mm 12/16 H & S 14 8
301800. **SHORT SERVICE.** 113
(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve).
P.C. sent 31/1/16
Army Form B. 2512
Card No. 156
GENERAL SERVICE

ATTESTATION OF
No. *2952* Name *Sykes, Herbert* **30 NORTHUMLAND FUSILIERS**

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

- What is your Name? ... *Herbert Sykes*
- What is your full Address? ... *Northgate Upper Hopton
Mirfield*
- Are you a British Subject? ... *Mirfield*
- What is your Age? ... *21 Years 12 Months*
- What is your Trade or Calling? ... *Miller in Wollen Mill*
- Are you Married? ... *No*
- Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... *No*
- Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... *Yes*
- Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... *Yes*
- Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... *Yes* { Name ... Corps ... }
- Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. ... *Yes*

I, *Herbert Sykes* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Herbert Sykes SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Wm Beaumont Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.
I, *Herbert Sykes* swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.
The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at *Mirfield* on this *12* day of *Dec* 19 *15*
Signature of the Justice *Samuel Walker*

† Certificate of Approving Officer.
I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint *Samuel Walker* **30 NORTHUMLAND FUSILIERS**
If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.
Date *11 MAR* 1916 19
Place *HALIFAX* Recruiting Officer, 33rd Regt. Area Approving Officer.
MAJOR

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Herbert's injuries

Herbert had both of his legs amputated below the knee due injuries sustained in the trenches. Mr & Mrs Sykes had five of their sons serving. Herbert was eventually sent to a Manchester Hospital (See Upper Hopton Church Parish Magazine April 1917).

The King's Certificate of discharge

The King's certificate was awarded to soldiers who were discharged due to injuries in the theatre of war.

Silver War Badge

The Military records show that Herbert was awarded the Silver War Badge. The badge number was 336.914.

The badge was awarded for soldiers who had been honourably discharged from the army under Kings Regulations (the most commonly reason for discharge and issue of the badge is that a soldier had been released on account of being physically unfit).



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Herbert Sykes

Herbert's Medal card

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
SYKES	Durh. L.I.	Pte.	6145
	T. R. Bn.		TR/5/61492
	Durh. L.I.		301800
Herbert.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	07/1/103841	7993	
BRITISH	"	"	
STAR			
DWB List 0/103071			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
K. 1380			

Correspondence
Address

(991) W. 701/R. P. 6980 1,000m. 24/5/21 N.H.&Co.Ltd. E. 7600

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Herbert's Medals



British War Medal



Victory Medal

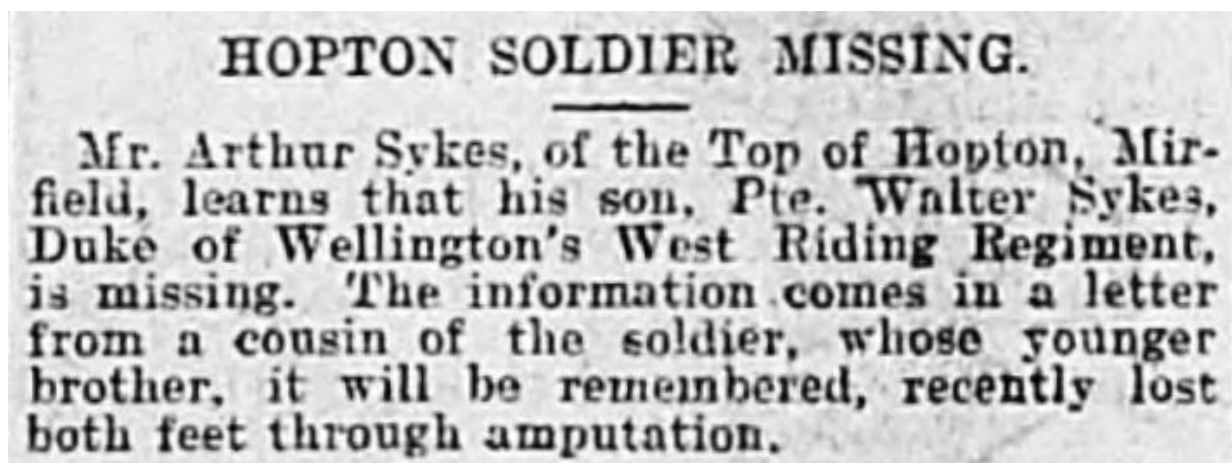
World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Dewsbury Reporter Saturday 19th May 1917

The newspaper report is about Walter Sykes but it discusses his younger brother Herbert who lost both his feet through amputation.



World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

The photograph was taken in approximately 1944 and shows Herbert Sykes second from the right with his walking stick.

From left to right- Peter Castle, John Castle, George Haigh, George William Castle, **Herbert Sykes with his walking stick** and Oliver Castle with his top hat.



The photo is taken in front of Laithe farm on Jackroyd Lane. Herbert Sykes was living on Nippin Row (Woodrow).



Herbert Sykes

Upper Hopton Parish Magazine April 1917

HERBERT SYKES.

It is very distressing to hear that Herbert has had to lose both his feet in consequence of the hard life in the Trenches. Mr. and Mrs Sykes had five out of their six sons serving. We offer to them our respectful sympathy and to Herbert, who is now safely lodged in a Manchester Hospital and doing well.

CALLED UP.

Since the beginning of the year several more of our Hopton men have joined the Colours. We miss Mr. Redfern Holt from the congregation. Mr. Jack Tuke was to the fore as President of the Men's Club, and took a keen interest in the Christmas parcels. The other new names on our Honour Board are those of Messrs. Leonard Wilson, Harry Moody, Joe Sykes, and Fred Laycock. We wish them well, and shall be glad of their safe return.

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World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Sykes

Herbert's family grave in St John's churchyard Upper Hopton



Gravestone for Walter's parents Arthur and Ellen Sykes and their eldest son Alan. Ellen died 1935 living at Northgate, Arthur 1939 at Jackroyd Lane and Alan 1954 at Beech St Mirfield.