

Herbert Edmund Haynes, died 22 October 1922, aged 38

Herbert was the only child of Arthur and Ellen Haynes, and was born in 1884 in the Archway Road. He grew up in there and in 1899 he was mentioned in the London Gazette as being appointed as a temporary boy copyist in the Civil Service, although the department is not given. However he must have been successful in his work as he was later appointed to a permanent post, and by the outbreak of war he was a clerk in the Board of Trade working in the Seamen's Registry at Tower Hill.

Herbert's mother had died in 1900, but he continued to live with his father until August 1910 when he married Emma Roffe at All Saints' Church Highgate. Emma was a local girl, she lived in Railway Cottages and her father was a ticket collector at Highgate station. The couple then set up home at 63 Leicester Road, and to make ends meet they took in another young couple, Mr and Mrs Pridham, as lodgers. (George Pridham worked for HM Customs and Excise so he and Herbert may have met through their work.) In December 1911 Herbert and Emma's only child Muriel was born, and she was baptised the following month at All Saints' Church by Father Armitstead.

Herbert had not been a territorial so he did not join up until May 1916, by which time married men were being called up. He enlisted in the 15th Battalion the London Regiment (Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles), at Somerset House.

The battalion served at the Somme in 1916 and at Ypres the following year, but it is unlikely that Herbert saw much action after his basic training. In August 1917 he was diagnosed with osteoarthritis, and between early November 1917 and the end of February 1918 he was in hospital in Bristol with dysentery. When he was discharged from the Army in March 1919 he was also pensioned off by the Civil Service as 60% disabled.

Herbert then applied for a pension from the army, and as part of the process he had to be assessed by medical boards at Edmonton Military Hospital. In March 1919 Dr H E Scott wrote *'His knees are swollen and cannot be completely extended. Elbows are constantly flexed. Right one is kept at a right angle and cannot be further extended.'* In February 1921 the comment was made *'Vision defective but able to read bold print at 5ft.'* On 27 September 1921 the note is *'Condition will improve. Award should not be made for 12 months.'*

It is very unlikely that Herbert returned for further assessment the following year, as on 22 October 1922 he died at his home in Leicester Road. His death certificate gives the causes of death as (1) osteoarthritis 5 years, (2) cachexia 6 months. Cachexia is when a person suffers from extreme fatigue, weight loss and muscle atrophy and is often associated with terminal illnesses such as cancer or tuberculosis.