

HERBERT WILKINSON SHARP

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS 1/4TH BATTALION AND 8TH BATTALION

EARLY LIFE

Herbert Sharp was born on 22nd August 1893 to Ernest Wilkinson and Alice Thompson Sharp of 34 Newlands Place. He was baptised on 28th March 1901 along with three of his siblings, an unusual occurrence in the days when infant mortality was still high. The census of 1911 shows the family as living at 104 Newlands Place, Herbert now 17 was working, as with his father, in a warehouse.

Page 144. BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of ... in the County of ... in the Year One thousand ...

Year Baptized	Christen Name	Parent Name	Sex	Quality, Rank, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
1901	Herbert	Ernest Wilkinson & Alice Thompson	Male	22 August	S. Thomas
1901	John	Ernest Wilkinson & Alice Thompson	Male	28 March	S. Thomas
1901	William	Ernest Wilkinson & Alice Thompson	Male	28 March	S. Thomas
1901	Elizabeth	Ernest Wilkinson & Alice Thompson	Female	28 March	S. Thomas

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Record of Baptism for Herbert and his siblings.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911

RAISE AND VISITORS	HOUSEHOLD	BIRTHS IN HOUSEHOLD	DEPARTURES IN HOUSEHOLD	DEPARTURES
Ernest Wilkinson	49	21	2	2
Alice Thompson	49	21	2	2
Herbert Sharp	49	21	2	2
John Sharp	49	21	2	2
William Sharp	49	21	2	2
Elizabeth Sharp	49	21	2	2

1911 Census entry for the Sharp family. Medal Index Card (below)

SHARP, Herbert W.

Medal	Hon.	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	9/10/1914	1842	
BRITISH			
STAR			

Theatre of War first served in
Date of entry therein

Herbert is listed on his Medal Index Card as having joined the Seaforth Highlanders with regimental numbers of 4238 and 210416. He too had responded to the call to join this distant regiment on their annual recruiting drive in Bradford. His associated Medal Roll for his War and Victory medals indicates he was initially a member of the 1/4th battalion and later the 8th battalion. Herbert did not go out to before 1st January

Uniform of the Seaforth Highlanders



Group photograph of men from the Seaforth Highlanders



Private
201416

Herbert Sharp

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS

Late of 104 Newlands Place

22nd August 1917

In August 1917, the 8th Seaforths were in the line near the Frezenberg Ridge in preparation for an attack scheduled for 22nd August.

Their War Diary:

“21/8/1917 – 1:10AM – Relief was complete. The day was quiet and spent in final preparations for proposed attack

10.30PM – Companies began to move forwards to their jumping off positions. This was carried out quietly and successfully.

22/8/1917 – 12.30AM – The Battalion was in position as detailed...

4.45AM – This was ZERO hour. Battalion moved forwards in cooperation with troops on each flank

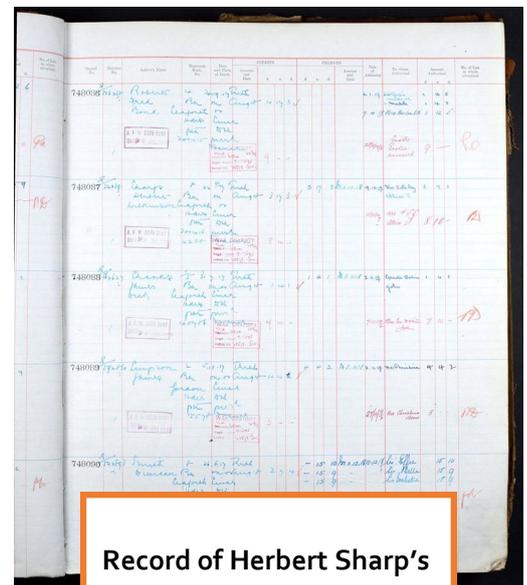
7.30AM – Enemy retained objectives (IBERIAN, BECK HOUSE) and drove back all troops except B Company who met little resistance and passing between IBERIAN and BECK HOUSE were cut off.

Heavy losses

Two planned attacks on 22/8/1917 against the same objectives failed. Although not recorded in the War Diary, the casualties to the 8th Seaforths were very high indeed. The CWGC database lists 138 fatalities, few have known graves. Herbert Wilkinson Sharp was killed in action this day; his grave was originally lost but was discovered after the war at Map Reference D.26.a.40.50. His body was reburied in Tyne Cot British Cemetery, one of nearly 12,000 such graves here of which some 70% are unidentified. This cemetery is the largest British military cemetery in the world.



**Gas Sentry
Seaforth
Highlanders**



**Record of Herbert Sharp's
Personal Effects**

Herbert's back pay and War Gratuity were paid to his mother, Alice.

