

Barlow, Harold Frederick

Name: BARLOW, HAROLD FREDERICK

Initials: H F

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Regiment/Service: Royal Air Force

Age: 19

Date of Death: 30/08/1918

Additional information: Son of Frederick John and Hannah Barlow, of 4, Joynson St., King's Hill, Wednesbury.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: A. NC. 359.

I have not been able to find a record of an inquest into his death nor were there newspaper reports of the accident.

He is buried at Wednesbury cemetery. Wednesbury has a war memorial and it is quite impressive. However, it is the only town memorial that does not have the names of the "fallen" recorded on it. A group is presently campaigning to add the names to the memorial



<http://www.wednesburywarmemorial.org.uk/intropage.htm>

Harold was granted a temporary commission as 2nd lieutenant on 27th August 1918; reported in London Gazette September 18th 1918 and in Flight magazine on the same day.

Harold was born in Wednesbury in the Black Country in 1899. He was the son of Frederick John Barlow a commercial clerk born in Wednesbury in 1873. In 1901, the family lived at 210 Walsall Road, Wednesbury. Harold had a sister, Ethel, who was three years older than him.

By 1911 the family had moved to 4 Joynson St in the King's Hill area of Wednesbury. Harold was still at school but Ethel now worked as a clerk typist. The Barlow's had now two more children: Louie, a daughter born in about 1902 and William John, a son, born in about 1905.

Harold's mother was called Hannah Barnsley; she was born in 1873 in Darlaston. She and Frederick married in late 1894 in Walsall. Ethel, their first child, was also born in Darlaston in 1896 which suggests they moved to Wednesbury between then and 1899 when Harold was born. Hannah's father, Edward John Barnsley, was a labourer in an iron works at the time of Hannah's birth but by 1881 was working on his own account

as a newsagent and stationer at 2 Cock St. Darlaston. The family continued to live there until 1901 at least. Edward died in 1908. The street no longer exists today but even in 1901 the houses either side of the shop were unoccupied.

Harold's paternal grand-father was a house and insurance agent having started his working life as a boot-maker. Samuel Barlow was born in 1845 in Congleton, Cheshire. In 1881, Samuel worked as an agent in an ironworks. The family lived at 75 Pinfold St. Darlaston. All of the children of Samuel and Emily Barlow including Frederick were born in Darlaston. By 1891, they had moved to Birmingham St, Wednesbury. They were not a poor family as they could afford a live-in servant.

Harold's great-grandfather, Samuel's father, appears in the 1861, living in Derby with the occupation of "botanic physician". Daniel Barlow was born in Congleton, Cheshire in 1807. In the 1841, he worked in Congleton as a silk weaver but by 1850 he starts to appear in trade directories where he is variously described as a herbalist,

In the 1861 and 1871 censuses he claimed membership of the Reform College, Philadelphia, in connection with his practice as a botanic physician, and it is possible (but as yet unproven) that he went there in the 1850s.