



Herbert Bradley

4 Wheeldon Avenue

Herbert's family had lived in Wheeldon Avenue since the days the houses were first built. In the 1911 census Herbert lived here with his father, stepmother and sister, along with a lodger. Herbert's father was an "Foreman Iron Turner", his sister had been a dressmaker and Herbert himself was a Clerk at the Midland Railway – all very typical occupations for the people living in this area at that time.

Herbert volunteered for military service aged 26 in May 1915 (a year before conscription was introduced). He was assigned to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps whose role was the maintenance and repairs of armaments and munitions.



A workshop of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps with various wheeled and tracked vehicles undergoing repair. (This photograph was taken just after the war).

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He was probably still in military training when he married Mable Piggin, who lived at 73 Gerrard Street. They married on

30 October 1915 at the Victoria Wesleyan Methodist Church in Prestwich, Lancashire - she was living in nearby Cheetham. Her occupation is not listed on the marriage certificate, so whether she was pursuing her career as a machinist which was listed on the 1911 census we do not know.

It is not clear where Herbert served, but a note on his record says he did not serve abroad. In 1918 he was serving in York, where he was hospitalised with Myalgia – a sprain or injury that must have been severe to keep him in hospital for 59 days. Herbert rose through the ranks from private to Staff Sergeant in July 1918.

In February 1919 Herbert was discharged from military service and returned to his wife and son, Kenneth, who had been born in May 1918.

We know little of Herbert's life after the war. By Autumn 1919 he was no longer listed on the Register of Electors at 4 Wheeldon Avenue so he and Mabel had obviously moved away to take up their interrupted lives. A daughter Kathleen was born in Derby in 1922. He continued to work as a clerk for the Railway, and his last address was 45 Kenilworth Avenue.

Herbert died in hospital Ashbourne in 1971 aged 82; Mabel outlived him by 11 years – she died in Derby in 1982.