**Herbert Henry Horwood**

Herbert Henry Horwood, born in Norwich in 1898, was the son of John and Louisa Horwood. His father had an army career and in 1901 his mother was a lodging house keeper in Folkestone. By the time of the 1911 census his father was an army pensioner and employed as a goods porter by the London and North Western Railway Company. At that time the family was living at 13 Weedon Road, Northampton. Herbert was then twelve years of age, one of six children, one of whom did not survive to adulthood.

When war broke out, Herbert enlisted as an under-age recruit in Northampton. He became Private 13454 with the 1st Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment. The Northamptonshire Regiment was among the first in France with the BEF in 1914, taking part in the retreat from Mons and the first battle of Ypres. 1915 was a year of disasters with the Northamptons, taking heavy casualties in the catastrophic attacks at Aubers Ridge and Loos and enduring a dreadful winter in the trenches. Herbert was killed in action on 9 May 1915, aged 16. He is remembered with honour on Le Touret Memorial in France.

His connection with Bushey is currently unknown but there were several Horwood families in the area at that time, both in Bushey and in Watford. Herbert is commemorated on the Bushey Memorial, at St James’ Parish Church, at St Peter’s Church in Bushey Heath and on the memorial at St Matthew’s Church, Oxhey.

