**Albert William Rumbold**

Albert William Rumbold, born in St Albans in 1883, was the son of Albert and Caroline Rumbold, who ran the Coffee Tavern next to the Bell Inn in Bushey High Street. His father died in 1903 but his mother continued the business and took students from the Herkomer School as lodgers. At the age of 18 Albert was apprenticed to a plumber. Ten years later he was employed as a book binder and commercial printer by the Watford Observer. He enlisted at Watford and served as Sergeant 16409 in the Bedfordshire Regiment. He died of wounds in France in 1917.

His death was reported in The Watford Observer:

 ‘Miss Rumbold of 22 Koh-i-Noor Avenue, Bushey has received the news of the death of Sergt. Albert Wiiliam Rumbold of the Beds Regiment, who from the beginning of 1907 had been in the book binding department at the “Observer” Printing Works, Secretary of the Bushey Branch of the National Deposit Friendly Society since its formation, and a member of the choir of the Congregation Church , Bushey. Sergt Rumbold, who was 34 years of age, joined up a few weeks after the outbreak of war, gained rapid promotion, and left for France in August 1915.He was attached to the staff of the A P M. His captain writes:

“I am very sorry to tell you that Sergt Rumbold was wounded on Sunday 6 May and died in hospital here on the morning of 8 May. I reached him within a few minutes of his being wounded, and got him into hospital at once, where all that was possible was done for him, but without success. He was buried in the cemetery here with two of his friends who were hit at the same time, and the number of officers and men who attended the funeral was some indication of his popularity with everyone. He was my Traffic Sergeant, and my right-hand man here, one whom I knew I could trust to do anything – careful, efficient, and conscientious; and I cannot tell you how grieved I am personally to lose one who has worked with me for so many months, and whom I looked on as a friend. I cannot realise yet that he is gone, and that I have to get on without him”. Sergeant Rumbold is the fourth man from the “Watford Observer” Works who has given his life for his country’.

He is remembered with honour at the Noeux-Les-Mines Communal Cemetery and is commemorated on the Bushey memorial, at St James’ Parish Church and at the Congregational Church in Bushey High Street. His name can also be found on the family grave in Bushey churchyard.

