

JOHN HENRY ASBURY 11998

9th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Died Friday 21st July 1916

Born Smockington Enlisted Nuneaton living in Burbage

Age 20

Burbage St Catherine's Churchyard

Son of Mr Arthur John and Ann Asbury, 123 Sketchley Rd, Burbage

Memorials-

Burbage

Burbage St Catherine's Church

Wesleyan Burbage

Grave St Catherine's Churchyard



John Henry (Harry) Asbury

John Henry known to his family as Harry was the eldest son of Ann and Arthur Asbury of Sketchley Rd, Burbage. Born on 14 May 1896 Harry was educated at Burbage Church School under the headship of Charles Higham.



Harry with his Mother & Father and two younger brothers



123 Sketchley Road, Burbage

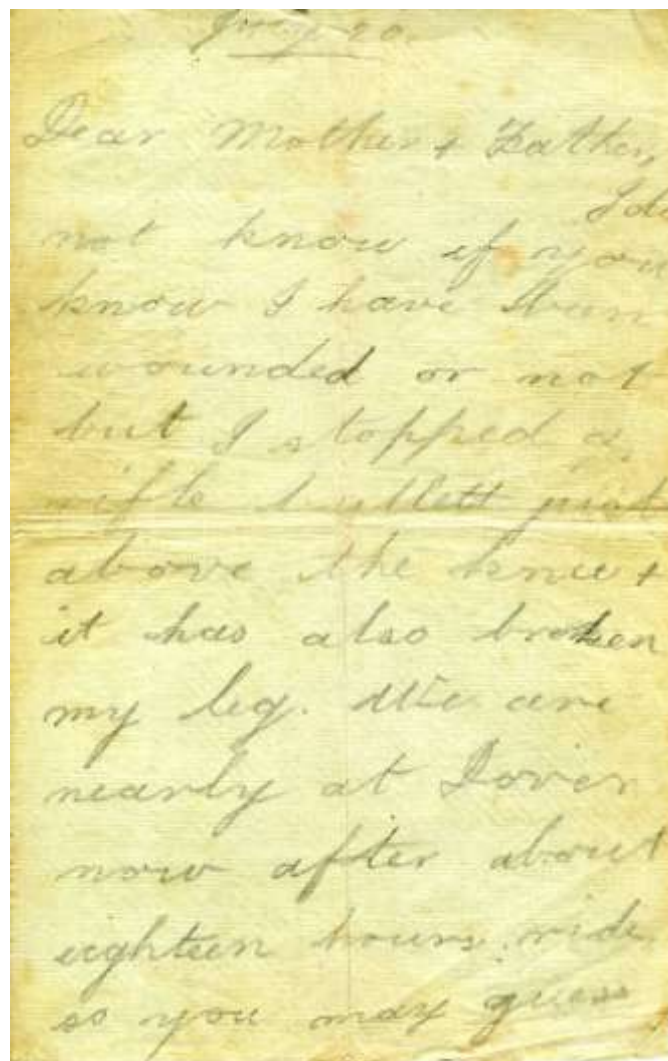
Shortly after the outbreak of war he left his job at Sketchley Dye Works and enlisted with the 9th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in October 1914.

Part of the third of Kitchener's new armies, the 9th Battalion of the Leicester's trained at Purham Downs and Aldershot before embarkation to France. By the end of 1916, this Battalion alone had lost 491 men.

From 1915, Harry had served at the front and was probably part of the British offensive of the Somme, which had started on the 1st July 1916.

On the 19th – 20th July a main battle was at Aubers Ridge near Artois when 7,080 British and Australian Troops were killed without any progress or ground being gained, perhaps Harry was injured here.

On the 20th July Harry wrote a letter to his parents from a troop ship bringing casualties back to Dover from France telling them he had been shot above the knee and had a broken leg, but was 'going on first rate and not to worry'.



Dear Mother & Father,
I do not know if you know I have been wounded or not but I stopped a rifle bullet just above the knee & it has also broken my leg. We are nearly at Dover now after about eighteen hours ride so you may guess

2
I do not feel much
like writing tonight
well cheer up & do
not worry over
me for I am going
on first rate as far
I am longing to
see you all again
before long. I will
write again when
I have got the
address of the
hospital we are
being sent to.

Letter home page 2

3
Well I will close for
this time, please
excuse short letter
from your loving
son Harry.

Letter home page 3

He died the next day.

After over 18 hours travelling, he was transferred Netley Military Hospital at Southampton. In his final hours he was treated by The Burbage Rector's son, Dr Fletcher, a Doctor and Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps stationed at Netley.

Along with Harry's last letter and personal effects, the family still have the wire notifying them of his death. Just a basic printed form with Harry's details written in.

W 5218-2281 200,000 5/12 O.R.M. 21
104

Army Form B. 104-82.

No. 11998 LEICESTERSHIRE REGT.
(If registering, please quote above No.)

Leicester Record Office,
LEICESTERSHIRE Station,
22nd July, 1916.

Sir,

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of

(No.) 11998 (Rank) Private
(Name) Leahy, John Henry (Regiment) 9th Battalion
LEICESTERSHIRE REGT. which occurred at University War Hospital,
Southampton on the 21st
of July 1916, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss. The cause of death was
Death of Wounds received in Action

If any articles of private property left by the deceased are found, they will be forwarded to this Office, but some time will probably elapse before their receipt, and when received they cannot be disposed of until authority is received from the War Office.

Application regarding the disposal of any such personal effects, or of any amount that may eventually be found to be due to the late soldier's estate, should be addressed to "The Secretary, War Office, London, S.W.," and marked outside "Effects."

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Mr. G. J. Leahy
133, Northey Lane,
Leicester

L. L. Lloyd Captain,
Officer in charge of Records.

The body was brought back to Burbage the following week and was laid to rest in the village churchyard the same afternoon.

A firing party of thirteen from Glen Parva, consisting of men who had recovered from wounds, under Sergeant I Green, the well-known Barwell Cricketer, attended to give the deceased military honors, while six others bore the coffin to the graveside.

The coffin was a shell storage box covered with a Union Jack and the deceased cap and belt. The service was conducted by Rev J P A Fletcher, Charles Higham read the lesson and the village schoolchildren sang the hymn 'Jesu, lover of my soul'.

Most of the village witnessed the internment, a volley being fired followed by a bugler sounding the last post and the firing party presenting fixed bayonets.

Rather than wait for the usual military portland stone memorial the Asbury family 'went into to debt to the sum of £40' to provide John with a lasting memorial, which has been, lovingly maintained for over 90 years.



ASPHYXIATING BULLET

MILITARY HONOURS AT FUNERAL OF PTE. J. H. ASBURY.

Private John Henry Asbury, of the 9th Leicesters, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Asbury, of Sketchley Lane, Burbage, died in the Netley Military Hospital on Friday last, from a wound in the thigh, stated to have been caused by an asphyxiating bullet.

The deceased, who was 20 years of age, enlisted in October, 1914, and was trained at Purham Downs and Aldershot. He had been at the front about 12 months. After taking part in the stiff fighting during the British offensive, he was last week badly wounded, and died at Netley soon after arriving on British soil. In a letter to his parents, written during the journey across the channel, he stated that while he had been badly wounded he hoped to see all at home soon. On Friday his parents received a wire to say that he had passed away.

Asbury was well-known in the neighbourhood, and formerly worked at Sketchley Dye Works.

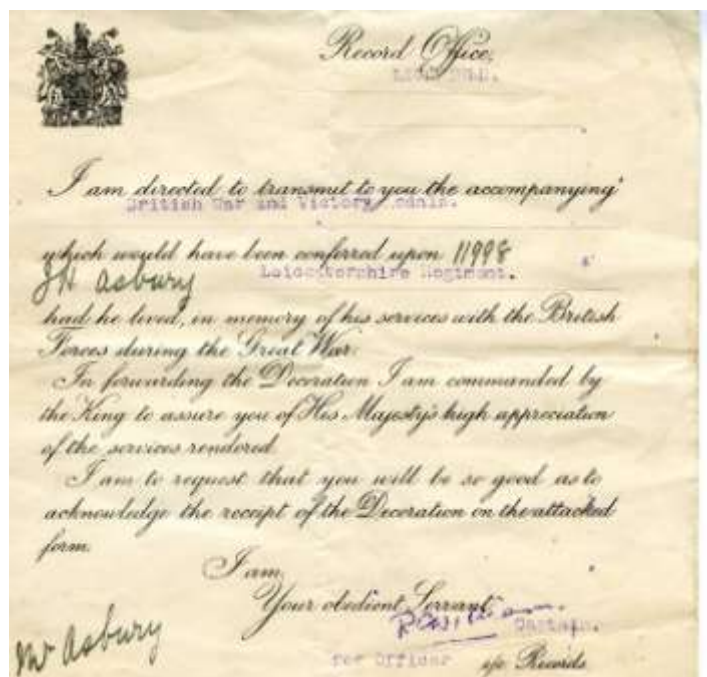


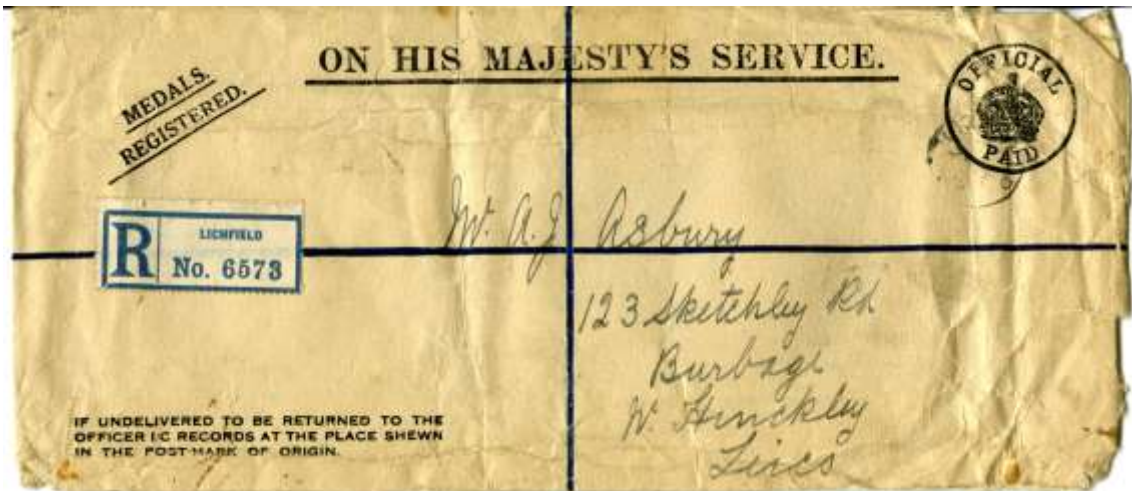
THE LATE PRIVATE ASBURY.

The body was brought to Burbage, on Tuesday morning, and was laid to rest in the village churchyard the same afternoon. A firing party of thirteen from Glen Parva, men who have recovered from wounds, under Sergt. I. Green, the well-known Barwell cricketer, attended to give deceased military honours, while six others soldiers bore the coffin to the graveside. The coffin, on which reposed deceased cap and belt, was covered with a Union Jack.

Practically the whole of the villagers turned out to witness the interment, and the Church was quite full. The rector (Rev. J. P. A. Fletcher), whose son treated deceased, at Netley, was the officiating clergyman, while Mr. C. Higham, Asbury's schoolmaster, recited the lesson. Miss Lord, organist, also played the "Dead March," and the school children sang the hymn, "Jesus, lover of my soul." The obsequies at the graveside were most impressive, three volleys being fired.

Obituary





Harry's Medals

BURBAGE
Rose Garden of Remembrance.

MAJOR HURST hopes that

Mr & Mrs Aubrey's Family

will be able to be present at the
Planting of the Memorial Roses, on
Saturday, March 26th. 1921, at 3 p.m.



St Catherine's Churchyard