



Herbert Gadd
1899 – 1987 (photo taken in 1917)

Young Herbert was born on December 15th 1899 and moved to No.1 Seaview Cottage with his parents in 1907 having previously lived in a cottage on Swan Farm and attended Dallington School until leaving age 13 when he went to work at Little Bucksteep in Redpale.

Little more is known of his early life until he enlisted in Hastings on 27th February 1917, joining the 21st Training Reserve Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment but later was assigned to the 25th Training Reserve Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment. Currently there is no further information regarding his military history apart from description of how he was injured as told to his son Bill:-

“He was leaning over the top of the trench when a shell exploded behind him”.

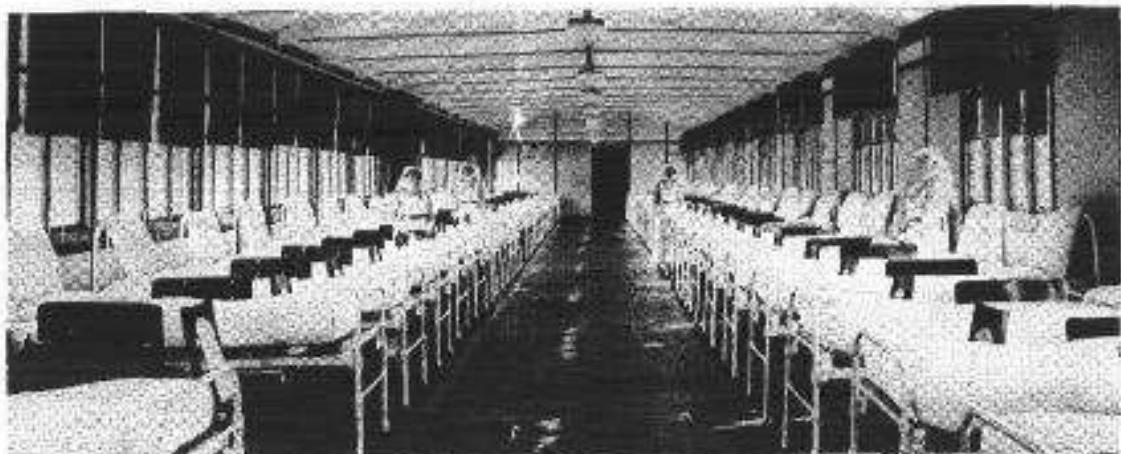
Shrapnel had struck him in the legs with his right leg having to be amputated on the onset of gangrene.

He was subsequently sent to Queen Mary’s Hospital Roehampton that specialised in the rehabilitation of military amputees.



Queen Mary Hospital Roehampton

He received a military discharge on 27th August 1920 after 3 years and 37 days service.



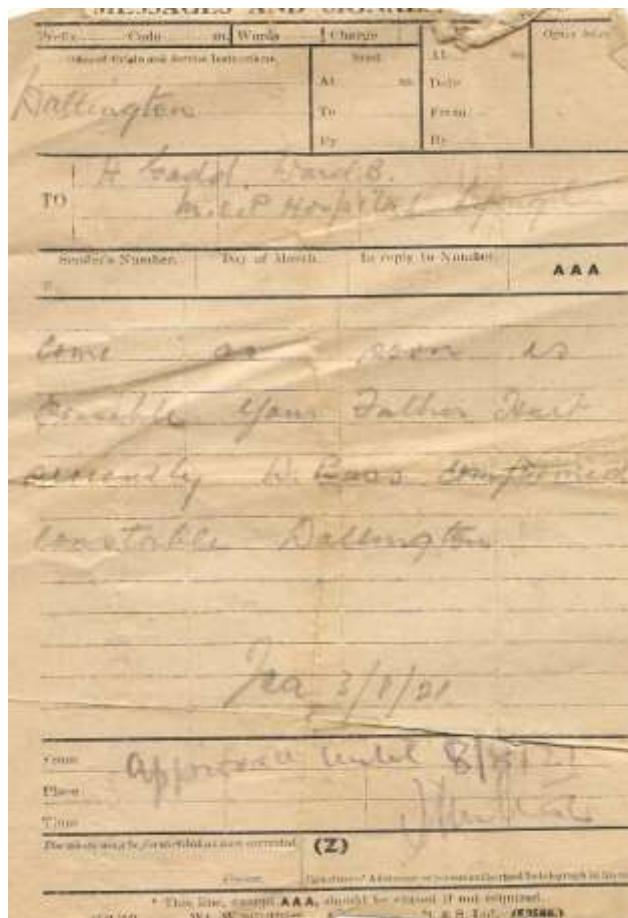
Courtesy "Nursing Times"

IN ONE OF THE WARDS, ALL READY FOR OCCUPANTS

Ministry of Pensions Hospital Orpington
(Formerly the 16th Canadian Military Hospital)

In 1921 he was in Ward B of the Ministry of Pensions Hospital in Orpington when he was to receive a telegram; -

“Come as soon as possible, your father hurt seriously”



The Original Telegram

Sadly, Herbert's father was hit on the neck by a large piece of wood that fell from a cart that was outside the Swan Public House and died shortly afterwards and was buried in Dallington church yard on the 6th August 1921.



On the 30th July 1923 Herbert was awarded a 90% disability pension which was then 36 shillings per week for life.



Herbert Gadd 1922

In October 1923 he married Dorothy Maud Maria Crozier in Croydon and moved in to No 1 Seaview Cottage. They had four children, Herbert William, Bernard, Rose and Kathleen Phyllis who died in 1929 age 11months.

Herbert begins his new life as a shoe repairer on his discharge from Roehampton Hospital.

His shoe repair shop was in the shed immediately behind No 1 Seaview Cottage where he was to continue working until the mid 1970s. There was always a demand for shoe repairs years before recycling had been ever heard of.. His busiest time was during the Second World War when rationing prevented villagers from thinking about buying new shoes. Herbert also supplied the Dallington Home Guard with their boots.



Herbert outside his repair shop in the 1930s.

His shed has remained virtually untouched since the early 1970s.

In 1956 he purchased No 1 Seaview Cottage for £400 after years of renting at £3 18 shillings per month.

Dorothy died in 1981 and Herbert died in 1987.