

Pte. Reginald ROBERTS (1885 – 1914)
(Bedfordshire Regiment)



Reginald Roberts was born 1885 at Clophill, Bedfordshire. His father Amos Roberts married his mother Charlotte Odell on the 14th June, 1880.

The 1901 Census shows the family were living at 58 Hatfield Street, St Albans and there were now six children; Helena (b.1880), Harold (b.1882), Reginald (1885), Abel (1887), Maurice (1891) and Roger (1898). Most of the children were born in Clophill but Roger, the youngest, was born in Childwickbury. There are no occupations for Charlotte and the children but three boarders are named on the Census. Many families took in boarders at this time to help with the family finances. Amos, who was an agricultural worker, was probably working on the large private Childwickbury Estate when Roger was born.

At some point before 1909 Reginald Roberts met Catherine Connolly who was born in Batley and lived in Churchfield Terrace, Batley, near the Forester's Arms which was later to become the Batley Irish Democratic League Club. Reginald had served three years as a regular soldier before WW1 but how he came to meet Catherine is unknown. They were married at St Mary's Catholic Church, Cross Bank, Batley in 1909.

In 1911 they were living at 15 Back Richmond Street, Batley and by the Winter of 1911 they had a son John who died the following Spring. Their second son, Maurice, was born in New Street, Batley a few weeks before WW1 started in 1914.

Reginald was a Reservist in the Army and was therefore called up at the beginning of the War. He enlisted in St Alban's giving Batley as his place of residence. His brother, Maurice Roberts, also enlisted in St Alban's. Reginald disembarked on the 16th of August and was killed in action on the 9th of November. He had written a letter three days before his death stating that he was well.

He was a member of Batley Trades and Friendly Club and was highly esteemed amongst his fellow members. His brother Maurice died in 1917 and they are both Remembered on the St Alban's War Memorial giving the address of 58 Hatfield Street, St Alban's where their parents Amos and Charlotte still lived.

His wife Catherine married John William Gannon in 1919 and had two daughters, Catherine and Mary.

Reginald Roberts 7890, 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment is Remembered with Honour at Le Touret Memorial. He also appears on the Roll of Honour at St Mary's Church, Batley.

Researcher

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