



Herbert Richard Howard

1559 Corporal, 6th Infantry Battalion Australian Imperial Force

Herbert was killed in action on 8th May 1915 at Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey

He is remembered with honour at the Helles Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsular

The story of Herbert Richard Howard is a little fuzzy round the edges, but basically he was the son of a man born into challenging circumstances who made the best of his life and raised 9 children to adulthood. It was only after the death of that father, Richard Howard, that Herbert not only left home but crossed the ocean to the opposite side of the world.

Now, it is a little unclear exactly who the great grandparents of Herbert Richard Howard were but it seems most likely they were John and Elizabeth Howard married in Yarmouth in 1813, even though they both originated from further inland. Their first three children (at least) carried Elizabeth's maiden name of Newby as their middle name. At some point, this former sailor moved further inland, became a farmer, baptising his son Robert in Whitwell in 1824.

This venture failed and by 1841 when he and his family appeared in Bungay he was reduced to being a farm labourer.

In the intervening time, John and Elizabeth's oldest daughter, Sarah Newby Howard had wound up in Loddon, probably working there as a servant, and it was there that Sarah bore two illegitimate children, the older one named Richard Mingay Howard, the younger one, Caroline Howard. Both these children appeared with their grandparents and their mother Sarah in their Bungay household in 1841. Barely 20, Sarah was already the mother of two children aged 5 and 3 respectively, Richard's middle name giving a hint of his paternity?

Come 1851 and John and Elizabeth were still in Bungay, still living with Sarah and her two children. This was a family teetering on the edges of poverty, former sailor turned farmer John (now 78 years old) was a pauper, receiving out door relief, daughter Sarah was a laundress, back breaking work, whilst son Richard and daughter Caroline were adding their much needed little bit to the family coffers working as an errand boy and a silk winder respectively.

STREET ROBBERY.—*Sarah Howard, of Bungay, and John Norton, of Norwich, were charged with stealing a purse containing £9 10s. from the person of George Tidman, of Brooke, dealer, on the evening of the 25th. The alleged theft took place at Bungay fair, on the evening of the 25th ult., where the prosecutor met with the parties, and on the sudden departure of whom, he immediately missed his money. The female was positively identified by the prosecutor, and was fully committed for trial, but the identification of Norton not being complete, he was discharged.*

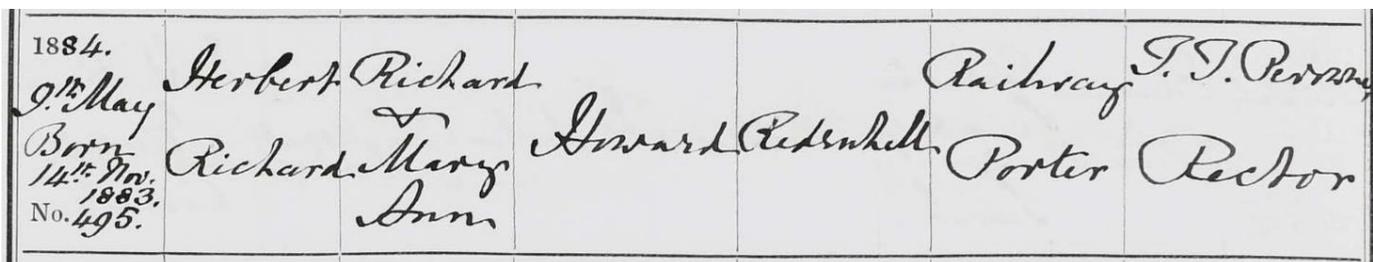
Whilst it is claimed that Sarah was a laundress, it might be she had been supplementing her income by another, less respectable means. In 1850 she was hauled up before the magistrates accused of stealing £11 5s from the person of George Tidman. 'From the person' is the relevant part here – not from his household but

actually from him. Generally this indicates a tipsy gentleman out for some fun and a lady of the night getting lucky as she rifles through his pockets!

Further investigation indicates that the offence did indeed take place at Bungay Fair and that Sarah might have been working in cahoots with a man from Norwich! However the case was dismissed due to lack of evidence so it is also perfectly possible that Sarah was just in the wrong place, at the wrong time!

In 1861 the little family had shrunk to Sarah, her two children and a 4 years old grand daughter – Harriet Howard, who I think we can assume to be the daughter of Caroline, who would only have been about 17 when the child was born. Caroline was still a silk winder but her older brother, Richard, was now working as a domestic gardener. Some time around about 1869 – give or take a year or two, we don't have a record of the marriage, Richard married Mary Ann from Wortwell. Again bit difficult to work out which Mary Ann from Wortwell but possibly Mary Ann Rayner.

Now, we can't tell if Richard's change of profession to working on the railways enabled him to get married or having a fertile wife propelled him to up his game but by 1871, Richard (Railway Employee) and Mary Ann were living on Broad Street, Bungay, near his childhood home and already had two children, aged 2 and 1! These were to be the first children of 10, only one of whom died prematurely. By 1875, Richard was a Railway Porter in Harleston, living out at Seven Cottages on the Bungay Road.



Now it could have been as a result of slightly blotting his copy book in 1886 that Richard was removed from his role as porter. Essentially, a package was given into his safe keeping at the station, he left it in the Ladies' Waiting Room – someone nicked it. The case went to court and a person was convicted of the theft but I am not quite sure Richard had followed proper practice!



The Howard's Harleston Family home

The family had stayed in Harleston for at least 10 years but by 1891 Richard, who was then 55 was following the slightly less demanding trade of gate keeper out in Wymondham, in an enclave of four houses all lived in by railworkers and this is where Herbert Richard Howard makes his first appearance in a census although he was born in Harleston.

*The Howard's Wymondham
Family home*



Still there in 1901, our hero Herbert and his younger sister (the two youngest children) were the only ones left at home with their parents. At 15, Herbert was an agricultural labourer but by 1911, when he was the only child in his elderly, retired parents household, he then claimed to be a 'stone pit quarry man' – which slightly confused me as Norfolk is not known for its quarries, until I realised this was a flint quarry! Not quite Grimes Graves but an on going excavation of a building resource used for thousands of years in this area which has very little other stone, as can be seen in the construction of the Wymondham railway cottages.

Herbert's father, Richard, died shortly after the 1911 census, his wife Mary Ann returned to Harleston where she died in 1917. Perhaps it was his father's death that provoked Herbert to strike out to the other side of the world and build a new life in Australia. When exactly he got to Australia we don't know but according to the Australian Govt. records, by mid-1913, he settled in Melbourne, married Hetty Simpson, a Yorkshire lass, enlisted at the outbreak of war and was one of thousands who died out in Gallipoli.

Hirst, John	35	Labourer	M.	VICTORIA
Howard, Herbert Richard	Corporal ..	31	Miner	S.	P.O., Cranbourne, Victoria	Mrs. E. Hirst, P.O. Cranbourne, Victoria	C. of E.	..
Hulbert, George Henry ..	Private	27	Engine-driver ..	S.	4 Albert-street, Abbotsford	E. Howard, Norwich, Norfolk, England	Pres.	..

However, in this slightly elusive family, there was bound to be a grey area. A 31 years Cpl Herbert Richard Howard, a miner (well a slight stretching of a quarry man but perhaps he had branched out in Australia) boarded HMAT Runic A54 in Melbourne, giving a P.O. Box address in Victoria. He gave his next of kin as E Howard of Norwich, which could well have been Edgar Howard, Herbert's 11 years older brother who was indeed living in Norwich in 1911. He also claimed to be single – but this may have been a mistake in the records as when his widow filled out the form required for the Australian Roll of Honour all the information she gave matched exactly what we would expect. It turns out he had actually emigrated when he was 28 years of age which would indeed have closely matched with the death of his father. It looks as if his wife Hetty had returned to Yorkshire by the time the Australian Roll of Honour was being compiled, had she returned before? Was this why Herbert gave his brother as next of kin and why he claimed to be single?

Either way, this young man, born in Harleston with roots in the Waveney Valley who spent most of his youth in Wymondham, is rightly remembered here as a Harleston Hero.

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier Herbert Richard Howard
2. Unit and Number (if known) 1559 Corporal 6th Battalion
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—Town (if any) Melbourne District _____ State Victoria
4. What was his Birthplace Charleston, Norfolk, England
5. Date of Death 8.5.15
6. Place where Killed or Wounded Cape Helles

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling Labourer
2. Age at time of Death 32
3. What was his School _____
4. What was his other Training _____
5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia Born in England. Went to Australia when
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars) 28 years of age
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment:—

8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself, (Please state Relationship):

9. Name and Address of the Parent or other persons giving the information—

Name Mrs H. Howard

Relation to Soldier widow

Address 11 North Hall Row Dunelm Rd Leeds

10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom references could be made by the Historian for further information—

Name _____

Address _____

NOTE.—This Folder is addressed to the O.C. Australian Graves Services, London. Please fold in four, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.

NOTED ON H. R. CARD