

A WELL KNOWN LOCAL SPORTSMAN

HERBERT JOHN SILVER ("PUNCH")

Herbert John Silver born October 1894. Youngest son of Henry Charles Frank Silver (a Gilder and picture framer at Saltmarshes Tunbridge Wells High St.) and Elizabeth of Forge Road Southborough.

Bert attended Miss Lovell's School in Prospect Road from 5-7 years of age for one shilling a week. He later went to St. Peter's School on the Common. Head Master then was Mr. Cox other Teachers were Mr. Cliff and Mr. Weaver. Bert's Mother died when he was still at School.

He left School at the age of 14 years.

His first job was as house painter at Holden House.

War was declared in 1914, he joined up and was posted to India with the Royal West Kent Regiment serving as a Signaller. He was demobbed in May 1919.

Back home he returned to house painting for John Jarvis. He joined the Southborough Working Mens Club.

In Southborough he was well known for his keenness on sport Football, Cricket and Rifle shooting in the 20's.

(*see poem about Football team)

He was awarded many medals for sport (see photos) Herbert known as "PUNCH" met and later married Emily Jane Unsted in March 1934 at Speldhurst Church. They had one Daughter Rita.

During the second World War, Bert worked in Oxford in a factory making war munitions. While there he also served in the Oxford Home Guard.

Bert continued working until he was in his 70's, cycling to and from his home in Speldhurst. He also enjoyed working on their large garden. He was still interested in sport into old age.

By then both in their 80's Emy and Bert moved to a flat in Kirby Court Langton.

Bert died aged almost 91 years old in 1985.

His wife Emy later moved to St. Andrew Court Southborough in June 1998, she died in September 1998, just three months later aged 97 years.

SOUTHBOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB 1920's

SMITH, A RELIABLE KEEPER IS HE
WITH KEMP AND EDWARDS NEAR
AUSTIN AND TESTER THEY HEAD YOU SEE
AND SOUTHBOROUGH PEOPLE CHEER
MILLS IS SKILFUL IN ATTACK
SPARKLING SILVER ON HIS TRACK
BUSHELLS OF GOALS GO IN THE DEN
WITH ONE FROM LITTLECHILD NOW AND THEN.

(SPARKLING SILVER = HERBERT JOHN SILVER)

