

Robert Bartram 1914 – 2010, words from his wife, Dorothy

Robert Herbert Bartram was born on 8th September 1914 at Barningham, Norfolk. He was just a few months old when his father was called up to the Essex Regiment and went to France. He never saw his son again – he died in France and is buried in Denain.

Robert went to a local school until he was 14. His first job was with W H Smith where he worked on a stall in Melton Constable. After a while he came to London and had various jobs, including one with Keith Prowse in Bond Street. He met me when I came to work for his boss, whose chauffeur he was.

We were married in 1949 at Caxton Hall. Robert was a great reader – even when he lost his sight he turned to talking books. He loved motor racing and Jazz. He took flying lessons just before the Second World War but was unable to get into the RAF. So he volunteered for the army and was very quickly sent to France.

During our marriage we made several pilgrimages. The most wonderful one was in 1959 when we took the road to Santiago de Compostela. We also made pilgrimages through France seeking the Black Madonnas. We both went regularly to Walsingham as it was near Robert's birthplace.

His last job was with the British School of Motoring where he was the manager of the Ealing branch. After retirement he joined his wife in voluntary work at the Chiswick Hospital.

He left behind his wife Dorothy, son Robert and grandson Robert, and was much missed. He loved St Nicholas Church and was sad when he was unable to attend services because of ill health.

For more about the life Robert shared with Dorothy, please see her obituary.