

Soldiers Corner, Heinz Lindhorst 5 Nov 1925 – 19 Oct 1946



One Remembrance Day (it would be some time in the 1990s) I was with a group of people beside the cenotaph in the Nottingham Road Cemetery, Chaddesden, when I noticed a couple standing reverently over one of the German war graves. The woman was called Mary Sherratt, and the man was her husband. The grave was that of Heinz Lindhorst. When I asked them whether they had known the young soldier, Mary replied "Yes", and then she told me this story.



In 1946 Mary was working in the office of the Hartshead Quarry. She was seventeen years old at the time. The quarry was located beside the railway line (built by the London and North Western Railway company) from Ashbourne to Buxton, about ½ mile south of Hartington Station. This line closed in 1967 and the trackbed became the Tissington Trail in 1971. The old signal box of Hartington Station survives.

As part of the rehabilitation process after the end of the Second World War, the German prisoners from the Swanwick Prisoner of War Camp were allowed to come out and work on farms and in other local industries. Whole lorry-loads of such workers used to turn up at Hartshead Quarry. Mary remembered that they used to bring pictures of their families and show them to her and other members of staff, just like those who weren't prisoners might have done! One of those men was Heinz Lindhorst. She said that he was a slim young man. She also remembered his close friend, a man called Stefan, who was a much broader fellow.

On the morning of Saturday 19th October Heinz was guiding a crane; he had his back to the railway line. At about 11.15 a.m., the mid-morning passenger train came along the line. Someone shouted to Heinz that he was too near the tracks, but he couldn't hear the warning because of the loud noise of the crusher plant at the quarry. The train hit him. The quarry staff immediately leapt into action and stretchered him to the boiler house, where it was warm. Mary rang for a doctor and an ambulance from either Ashbourne or Buxton. She also telephoned the Swanwick Camp to tell them what had happened; somebody came out from there straight away. Heinz had multiple injuries. He was taken to one of the Derby hospitals, but they didn't have the facilities there for him. In the process of transferring him to the other hospital in the town, he died. When the manager of Hartshead Quarry received the news, he reported it back to his staff; they were devastated. In fact, the whole village community of Hartington was upset.

Mary Sherratt eventually got married, and she and her husband came to live in Chaddesden. She was one of those people who didn't have to change her surname when she got married; her husband's name was also Sherratt, even though they weren't related!

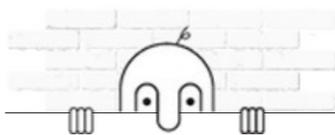
Revd Basil Denno © 2016.

Heinz Lindhorst's burial at Nottingham Road Cemetery on 24 October 1946 is shown in this extract from the burial register. It appears that the monumental mason has misread a carelessly written 9 and reproduced it as 0. Saturday would have been memorable to Mary Sherratt as that was the day when they finished work early. 19 October 1946 was a Saturday.

1618	Heinz Lindhorst.	German P.O.W.	21.	City Hospital. (St. German P.O.W. Camp)
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Derby.	24. Oct.	Widdib	58153	Up	19. Oct.
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58153 is the number of the burial plot.



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