



## **Eric Johnson**

### **1896 - 1916**

Eric was born in Savile Town, Dewsbury on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1896. His father was William Henry Johnson, a Woollen Manufacturer born in Dewsbury in 1865 and died in 1933. His mother was Fleeta (née Mellor) born in Malton, Yorkshire in 1871 and died in 1947. They were married at the Wesleyan Chapel, Savile Town on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1893.

Their other children were; twins William Henry, born in 1898 and died in 1898 and Harry, born in 1898 and died in 1911 and Gertrude, born in 1901.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Ingham Road, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at "Glenthorn" Headfield Road, Savile Town.

Eric was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and from 1908 at Batley Grammar School.

He served as Private 10481 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers and was training at Oxford in 1915. He was taken prisoner on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916 and died of wounds on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1916 during what was to be the start of a phase of the Battle of the Somme referred to as the Battle of the Transloy Ridges from 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October. He was originally buried in Doignies German Cemetery but in January 1923 he was reburied in Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France. Eric was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Achiet-le-Grand is a village 19 Kms south of Arras. The communal cemetery and extension were used by Commonwealth medical units from April 1917 to March 1918. The extension was also used by the Germans to a small extent in March and April 1918, and again by Commonwealth troops in August 1918. After the Armistice 645 graves, mainly of 1916 and March and August 1918, were brought in from the battlefields around Achiet and from small burial grounds including Doignies German Cemetery on the South side of the village, which contained the graves of 15 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Australia.

Eric is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill and on the Memorial Plaque to former pupils in Batley Grammar School

In Memory of

Private

**E Johnson**

10481, 9th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 10 October 1916

Remembered with Honour

**Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

