



## Ernest Greenwood

### 1891 – 1917

Ernest was born in Leeds on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1891; his true birth name was registered as *Ernest Greenwood Austin*. His father was Walter Greenwood, a coal miner born in Overton, near Wakefield in 1862 and died in 1915. His mother was Katherine/Catherine Ann (nee Wilks, formerly Austin) born in Seacroft, Leeds in 1869 and died in 1920. They were married in Leeds in 1901.

Their other children were; Herbert Greenwood Austin, born in 1894, Alice Greenwood Austin, born in 1897, Doris Austin, born in 1899, Gladys, born in 1902 and died in 1902, Hilda, born in 1903 and died in 1904, Norman Greenwood, born in 1906 and Ada Greenwood, born in 1911

Katherine was first married to Benjamin Austin (born 1859 and died in 1901) in Leeds on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1887 at All Saints Church, Leeds; they had a son, John William Austin, born in 1889. She was remarried again on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1917 at Holy Innocents Church to George Clarke (born in 1869 and died in 1933).

On the 1901 census the family were living at 16, Windsor Place, Hunslet, Leeds, in 1911 at Chapel Hill, Overton and later at 31, Berry Square, Thornhill Lees.

Ernest's occupation in 1911 was given as a Colliery Pony Driver and he later worked in the railway goods yard at Thornhill Lees.

He enlisted in 1914 serving as Private 15779 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915. A month later he was in hospital in Sheffield, having been wounded and after his return to the Front he was stricken with both Trench Feet and Trench Fever. According to the report of his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1917 he was described as 'a seasoned campaigner'. He was killed in action on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1917, the date when the enemy began a sustained bombardment of Diphosgene Gas Shells on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. According to his burial records held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, his remains were found in a cellar in Nieuport in August 1919; he was buried in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen Belgium. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery is located 2 Kms east of Nieuwpoort on the road which leads from Nieuwpoort to Sint Joris. From June to November 1917, Commonwealth Forces held the front line in Belgium from St. Georges (now Sint Joris), near Ramscappelle, to the sea. The Cemetery started with Plot 1 in the middle of the graveyard. Most of the interments were made in July and August 1917. The burial ground was substantially enlarged after the Armistice of November 1918. At that time, the remains of the deceased from the battlefields and a number of smaller cemeteries were brought to Ramscappelle for interment. There are now 841 Commonwealth casualties of World War I who are either buried or commemorated in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery. Of those, 312 are unidentified.

Ernest 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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Ernest Greenwood**

15779, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 10 July 1917 Age 25

Son of Walter and Catherine Ann Greenwood, of Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
**Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

