



## **Ernest Ruddlesden**

**1894 - 1917**

Ernest was born in Dewsbury on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1894 and baptised on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1894 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. His father was Charles/Charlie Ruddlesden, a Blanket Raiser born in Dewsbury in 1862 and died 1911. His mother was Betty/Betsy (nee Haythorne) born Dewsbury in 1861 and died in 1939. They were married on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1886 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Percy, born in 1887, Louisa, born in 1888, Ethel, born in 1891 and died in 1891 and Harry, born in 1896.

In 1891 they lived at 6, Webster Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 47, Back Granville Street, Flatts, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 7, Springfield View, Dewsbury and later at 7, Clarence Place, Dewsbury.

Ernest was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church School and attended the Church and Sunday school; he also attended the Victoria Jubilee School. He was later a chorister, a Sunday school teacher, a bell ringer and a member of the Church of England's Men's Society. After leaving school he worked for Mr. J.H. Pontefract, Skirt and Costume Manufacturer, Wellington Road, Dewsbury and later for Mr. John Harrop of Earlsheaton as a puttee cutter.

He enlisted on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1916 at Dewsbury serving as Private 36032 in the 24th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, Having completed his training he was sent to the Western Front on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1917. He died in hospital in France on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1917 having been shot in the legs, and was buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Tincourt is a village about 7 kilometres east of Peronne. The villages of Tincourt and Boucly were occupied by British troops in March 1917, during the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line. From the following May until March 1918, Tincourt became a centre for Casualty Clearing Stations. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1918, the villages were evacuated and they were recovered, in a ruined condition, around 6<sup>th</sup> September. From that month to December 1918, Casualty Clearing Stations were again posted to Tincourt. The cemetery was begun in June 1917, and used until September 1919. After the Armistice it was used for the reburial of soldiers found on the battlefield, or buried in small French or German cemeteries. There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 250 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to seven soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Australia, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 21 soldiers from the United Kingdom, two from Canada, one from Australia and one from South Africa, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Ernest is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park, and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

On the centenary of Ernest's death on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017, there was a memorial service at Dewsbury Minster All Saints Church and a solemn peal of bells was rung in his memory.

In Memory of  
Private

## E Ruddlesden

36032, 24th (Tyneside Irish) Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 09 September 1917 Age 23

Son of Betsy Ruddlesden, of 7, Clarence Place, Dewsbury, and the late Charlie Ruddlesden.

Remembered with Honour  
Tincourt New British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.