



Ernest Mason

1884-1918

Ernest was born in Batley on 23rd May 1884. His father was Henry Mason, an Engine Tenter born in Wansworth, Northamptonshire in 1850 and died in 1915. His mother was Eliza Alice (nee Hirst) born in Heckmondwike in 1854 and died in 1921. They were married in All Saints Church, Batley on 24th July 1875.

Their other children were; Emma Jane, born in 1876, James Joseph, born in 1879, Henry, born in 1882, Percy, born in 1887 and Ethel born in 1894.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at New Staincliffe, Batley, in 1891 and 1901 at 5, Carr Top, Batley Carr and in 1911 at 5, Upper Road, Batley.

Ernest worked as a Draper and was married on 11th March 1916 to Edith Alice Bamford (born in Huddersfield in 1889 and died in 1962) at the United Methodist Church, Talbot Street, Batley. They lived at Forest House, Thornhill Lees and had a son, Geoffrey, born in 1917.

He enlisted in March 1916 serving as Private 202383 in the 2nd/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in January 1917. He was wounded in France on 22nd March 1918, the Second Day of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*) and died in the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Doullens, France on 1st April 1918 and was buried in Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, Somme, France. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Doullens is a town in the Department of the Somme, approximately 30 kilometres north of Amiens on the road to Arras. The Communal Cemetery and Extensions lie on the eastern side of the town. In March 1916, the 19th Casualty Clearing Station came to Doullens, followed by the 41st, the 35th and the 11th. By the end of 1916, these had given way to the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital (which stayed until June 1918) and the 2nd/1st Northumbrian Casualty Clearing Station. From February 1916 to April 1918, these medical units continued to bury in the French extension (No.1) of the communal cemetery. In March and April 1918 the German advance and the desperate fighting on this front threw a severe strain on the Canadian Stationary Hospital. The extension was filled, and a second extension begun on the opposite side of the communal cemetery. The Communal Cemetery Extension No.1 contains 1,335 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Ernest Mason

202383, 2nd/4th. Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 April 1918 Age 33

Husband of Edith Alice Mason, of Forest House, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.