

## Ernest Blamires 1884-1918

Ernest was born in Bruntcliffe, Morley in 1884. His father was Walter Blamires, a mill hand and later a cloth designer born in Gildersome near Leeds in 1859 and died in 1921. His mother was Sarah Ann (nee Stephenson) born in Penistone, Yorkshire in 1860 and died in 1946. They were married on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1881 in All Saints Church, Batley.

Their other children were; Charles Stephen, born in Bruntcliffe in 1882, Norah, born in Morley in 1886, Ewart, born in Morley in 1888, Mary Elizabeth, born in Selkirk, Scotland in 1890, Gordon, born in Huddersfield in 1892, Mavis, born in Huddersfield in 1894, Dennis Arthur, born in Armley, Leeds in 1896 and twins Walter, born in Armley in 1899, Roland, born in Armley in 1899 and died in 1901.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 12, Market Place, Selkirk, Selkirkshire, Scotland, in 1901 at 57, Silver Royd Hill, Wortley, Leeds and in 1911 at 27, South Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Ernest was employed as a Power Loom Tuner; he was married on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1915 in York to Edith Melita Lickley (born in 1894 and died in 1942), they had a daughter Norah, born in York in 1915. In 1921 Edith was remarried to Ernest Dickinson (born in 1896 and died in 1979). They had six children between 1922 and 1934.

He enlisted in Leeds in 1915 into the  $23^{rd}$  Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment with the Service Number G/10648 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was killed in action around Bapaume, France on  $25^{th}$  March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Ernest is also 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 from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.



