



## **Alfred Ellison**

### **1897-1918**

Alfred was born in Dewsbury on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1897. His father was William Benjamin Ellison, a Pork Butcher born in Widnes, Lancashire in 1860 and died in 1927. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Bailey) born in Ravensthorpe in 1867 and died in 1944. They were married on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1892 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1900 and died in 1902, Alice born in 1903, and Albert, born in 1905 and died in 1906.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 29, George Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 50, George Street.

Alfred was a single man who worked in his father's pork butchery business.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 25672 in No. 2 Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards. He died of wounds near Ransart, France on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1918 and is buried in Douchy-les-Ayette British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Alfred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ayette is a village some 13 kilometres south of Arras on the road to Amiens, and Douchy-les-Ayette is a village 1 kilometre west of Ayette. The British Cemetery is opposite the Communal Cemetery on the north side of the road. Douchy-les-Ayette was in German occupation from October, 1914 to the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1917. In March, 1918, the enemy advanced as far as the Communal Cemetery, and held it for a few days. The village was never completely evacuated by the inhabitants. It contained a German Cemetery of 380 graves, now removed. The British Cemetery was begun in August and September, 1918, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Burial Officer; and the 81 graves then made are scattered among eight Rows in what are now Plots II and IV. It was enlarged after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields of Arras and the Ancre and from other burial grounds. There are now over 700, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly one-third are unidentified and a special memorial is erected to an officer of the Lincolns believed to be buried among them. Certain graves in Plot I, Row A and B, identified collectively but not individually, are marked by headstones bearing the additional words: "Buried near this spot...".

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

In Memory of

Private

# Alfred Ellison

25672, No. 2 Coy. 2nd Bn., Grenadier Guards who died on 27 August 1918 Age 21

Son of William B. and E. Ellison, of 50, George St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Douchy-Les-Ayette British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

