



## **Ernest Heap**

### **1882-1920**

Ernest was born in Dewsbury on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1882. His father was Mellor Heap, a Power Loom Tuner born in Holmfirth in 1853 and died in 1899. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Windle) born in Dewsbury in 1857 and died in 1930. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1875.

Their other children were; Eliza Ann, born in 1875, Willie, born in 1878 and died in 1883, Arthur, born in 1884 and Herbert, born in 1892.

On the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 58, Whitley Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 60, Bradford Road, Dewsbury.

Ernest was employed as a Sugar Boiler at a confectionary works, he was married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1910 to Ada Marsh (born in 1884 and died in 1976). They lived at 4, Thornville Street, Westtown and had two daughters; Bertha, born 29<sup>th</sup> December 1912 and Joan, born 9<sup>th</sup> November 1920. Ada was remarried in 1927 to Bob Gledhill (born in 1876 and died in 1946).

He enlisted pre-war on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1913 serving as Private 1939 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Lancashire Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1914. He served at home from 11<sup>th</sup> December 1915 to 11<sup>th</sup> March 1917 during which time he underwent an operation to remove his appendix in March 1916. He was transferred on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1917 into the 41<sup>st</sup> Company Labour Corps with the Service Number 24227 and returned to the front, coming home on leave in August 1918. He served on after the Armistice but was discharged as sick on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1919 and issued with Silver War Badge B307700, his Service Number having changed to 599346. He died at his home on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1920 from Bright's disease (Nephritis) caused by war service. His entry in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour states he died from the effects of gas poisoning and exposure. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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

He is one of twenty men named on the above but who are not recorded as official war casualties, due to their cause of death not being officially attributed to war service.