



Ernest Kitchen

1883-1919

Ernest was born in Dewsbury on 20th October 1883; His birth name is recorded as *Ernest Waterhouse Kitchen*. His father was Aaron Kitchen, a Farmer and later a Drayman born in Whixley, Yorkshire in 1852 and died in 1908. His mother was Emily (nee Waterhouse) born in Hopperton, Yorkshire 1856 and died in 1901. They were married in 1876.

Their other children were; Mary Elizabeth, born in Wetherby in 1877 and died in 1911, John Thomas, born in Linton Spring near Wetherby in 1879, William, born in Dewsbury in 1881, Albert, born in Dewsbury in 1885, Edwin, born in Dewsbury in 1887, George Henry, born in Dewsbury in 1890, and Annie, born in Dewsbury in 1892. On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records, their nieces Hannah and Jane are living with them but are confusingly recorded as their daughters.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Lower Road, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 8, Charles Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 at 30, Mallinson Street, Dewsbury.

Ernest was a single man who in 1911 is working as a coal miner and he is a boarder with a family named Ineson at 35, Gladstone Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

He enlisted on 2nd April 1915 serving as Private 19454 in the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. He was posted to Mesopotamia and then India and continued to serve up to 14th April 1919 when he was discharged as sick, being awarded a pension and issued with Silver War Badge B202825. He resumed his occupation as a coal miner but in November he was forced to give up work, due to not feeling well and suffering from dysentery. He died at his home at 6, Reform Street, Westborough on 5th December 1919 from illness caused by war service and was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Following a post mortem, the cause of death was found to be Emphysema bursting into the pericardium; the verdict of an inquest ruled that he died of natural causes. Ernest was awarded 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.