



## **Edgar Raymond Bowyer**

### **1895-1918**

Edgar was born in Galway, Ireland in 1895. His father was Joseph Bowyer, a regular soldier for 24 years born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1868 and was killed in action on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1917. His mother was Margaret (nee Sherry) born in Monaghan, Ireland in 1873 and died in 1919. They were married in 1892.

Their other children were; George Henry Ernest, born in Naas, County Kildare, Ireland in 1894, Frederic, born in Preston in 1897 and served in World War 1, Alexander, born in Bury in 1899 and served World War 1, Francis Duval, born in Dewsbury in 1911 and one other who died in infancy and cannot be traced.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 76, Ainsworth Road, Elton, Bury and in 1911 at 14, Waverley Street, Savile Town.

Edgar was a student and part-time Mercer and Grocer in 1911 and later in full employment at the Dewsbury Pioneers Cooperative Society in the Grocery Department. He was married to Amy Oxley (born in 1896 and died in 1980) on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1918 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees; they lived at 3, Waverley Street, Savile Town. In 1921 Amy was remarried to his brother Frederic, who died in 1974.

He enlisted with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in October 1914 as Private 200566 and was sent to the Western Front in April 1915. He came back to England in October 1917 in order to study for a commission and returned to the front in July 1918 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment. He was killed in action in France near Epinoy on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918 and was buried in Sucrerie Cemetery, Epinoy, Nord, France. Edgar was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Epinoy is a small village on the road between Cambrai and Douai. Sucrerie Cemetery is located 1 kilometre further north of Epinoy. The village was captured by the 11<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and the cemetery was made by fighting units after the battle. The cemetery contains 100 burials and commemorations of the First World War. Five of the burials are unidentified but there is a special memorial to one soldier believed to be buried in one of them.

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

His father Joseph is commemorated on the above St. Mary's Church War Memorial but for some unknown reason his name does not appear on the Dewsbury Cenotaph nor the Dewsbury Roll of Honour.

In Memory of  
Second Lieutenant

## Edgar Raymond Bowyer

4th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 01 October 1918 Age 23

Son of Lt. and Qmr. Joseph Bowyer, M.C., of Dewsbury; husband of Amy Bowyer, of Waverley St., Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
Sucrerie Cemetery, Epinoy



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

