



## **George Ainsworth**

### **1899-1918**

George was born in Dewsbury on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1899. His father was William Ainsworth, a Coal Miner and later a Labourer, born in Dodworth near Barnsley in 1868 and died in 1932. His mother was Minnie Louisa (nee Jenkinson) born in Kirk Smeaton near Pontefract in 1869 and died in 1933. They were married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1897.

They also had a daughter, Annie, born 9<sup>th</sup> November 1897.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 17, Back Leatham Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

George was a single man whose occupation in 1917 was a Piecener.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1917 serving as Private 77252 in the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) He served in various Battalions, the 52<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and finally the 10<sup>th</sup>. He was sent to the Western Front on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1918 and was killed in action in France on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and was buried in the field. In July 1919 his remains were reburied in Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, Nord, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Gouzeaucourt is a large village 15 kilometres south west of Cambrai and 15 kilometres north-east of Peronne. The village was captured by the 8th Division on the night of 12th -13th April 1917. It was lost on 30th November 1917 in the German counterattack at the end of the Battle of Cambrai, and recaptured the same day by the 1st Irish Guards. It was lost again on 22nd March 1918, attacked by the 38th (Welsh) Division on the following 18th September, and finally retaken by the 21st Division on 8th October. The cemetery was begun in November 1917, taken over by the Germans in 1918, and used again by Commonwealth forces in September and October 1918, but the original burials were only 55 in number. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from other cemeteries and from the battlefield of Cambrai. The cemetery now contains 1,295 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 381 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 34 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Another special memorial records the name of a soldier buried in Gouzeaucourt Communal Cemetery in May 1917 whose grave was destroyed by shell fire.

George 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 in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

**G Ainsworth**

77252, 10th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 10 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of "Frajohn" a member of the Great War Forum.