



## **Ernest Cockburn**

### **1896-1918**

Ernest was born in Dewsbury in 1896. His father was Edward Cockburn, a Glass Bottle Maker born in Sunderland, County Durham in 1861 and died in 1923. His mother was Winifred (nee Lowe, surname registered as *Law*) born in Dewsbury in 1860 and died in 1939. They were married on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1879 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Edward, born in 1880, Thomas, born in 1882 and died in 1882, James William, born in 1883, George Alfred, born in 1885 and died in 1886, Wilfred, born in 1887, Christopher, born in 1889, Jane, born in 1891 and died in 1893, Kate, born in 1893 and died in 1895, Henry Lowe, born in 1899 and died in 1902, Winifred, born in 1902 and Herbert, born in 1904 and died in 1906.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 5, Ernest Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at Berry Square, Thornhill Lees and later at Cardigan Road, Thornhill Lees.

Ernest was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and attended Holy Innocents Church; he worked as a Glass Bottle Hand at Kilner Brothers Ltd in Thornhill Lees. He converted to Catholicism before his marriage at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1917 to Margaret Annie Howley (born in 1895 and died in 1979) they lived at 18, New Street, Westtown but did not have any children. Margaret was remarried to Henry Jowett (born in 1898 and died in 1975) on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1921, they had two children.

He enlisted in Mirfield serving as Private 204079 in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) firstly in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and later in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He came home on leave for his marriage in 1917 but was killed by a shell near Villers-en-Cauchies in France on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1918 whilst carrying rations up to the trenches; he was buried in Wellington Cemetery, Rieux-en-Cambresis, Nord, France. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Rieux-en-Cambresis is a village 9 kilometres north-east of Cambrai. Wellington Cemetery is 800 metres north of the village. The village was captured in October 1918, in the Pursuit to the Selle, and the cemetery was made by battalions of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment immediately after. It was then increased by the concentration of graves from a wide area, mainly South of Rieux. There are now over 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 80 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 21 soldiers from the United Kingdom.

Ernest 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

**E Cockburn**

204079, 1st/4th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 13 October 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Wellington Cemetery, Rieux-En-Cambresis**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

