



## **Ernest Hodgson**

### **1885-1918**

Ernest was born in Dewsbury in 1885. His father was John Henry Hodgson, a Coal Miner born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1921. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Brearey) born in Dewsbury in 1852 and died in 1922. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1878.

Their other children were; John, born in 1880, Grace, born in 1882 and Harry, born in 1888.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Gladstone Street, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 6, Beckett Nook, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 31, Beckett Nook and in 1911 at 119, Whitley Street, Dewsbury.

Ernest was a single man who attended the Salem United Methodist Church, Northgate, Dewsbury. He worked as a Bye Worker at White Lee Colliery.

He enlisted on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1915 into the Royal Army Medical Corps with the Service Number 70649 being sent firstly to Aldershot; he then did hospital work in Sussex and had further training at Tweseldown in Hampshire and finally in Blackpool. In April 1917 he was posted to Salonika and in January 1918 he was transferred into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment serving as Private 66236 and after a few weeks training he was sent to the Macedonian Front. He died from bronchial pneumonia and influenza (Spanish Flu) in the 61<sup>st</sup> General Hospital on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1918 and was buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The cemetery is some 15 kilometres north east of Thessaloniki, on the outskirts of the village of Exochi (formerly Kirechkoi), adjacent to the village communal cemetery, just off the road to Hortakoi. XVI Corps Headquarters were at Kirechkoi from January 1916, soon after the opening of the Salonika campaign, until the advance to the Struma in September 1916. The cemetery was begun in March 1916, but it remained a very small one until September 1917, when the 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> General Hospitals came to the neighbourhood. In June, July and September 1918, other hospitals were brought to the high and healthy country beside the Salonika-Hortakoi road and in September 1918, the influenza epidemic began which raged for three months and filled three-quarters of the cemetery. The last burial took place in January 1919, but in 1937, 12 graves were brought into the cemetery from Salonika Protestant Cemetery where their permanent maintenance could not be assured. The cemetery now contains 588 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 Memorial Plaque from the Salem United Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

**Ernest Hodgson**

66236, 2nd Bn., Cheshire Regiment who died on 14 October 1918 Age 33

Son of Elizabeth Hodgson, of 119, Whitley St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery**



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



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Find a Grave.