



## **Bertram Cecil Ives**

### **1896-1918**

Bertram was born in Dewsbury on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1896 and baptised in All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1897. His father was William Ives, a warehouseman and later a weaver in the Woollen Industry born in Shelley near Huddersfield in 1858 and died in 1944. His mother was Ann (nee Backhouse) born in Batley in 1858 and died in 1923. They were married in 1878.

Their other children were; Clara, born in 1879, Annie Elizabeth, born in 1880, Ethel, born in 1882, Agnes, born in 1885, Harriet Emily, born in 1887, Joseph Priestley, born in 1889 and served in World War I, Norman, born in 1891 and served in World War 1, Irving, born in 1894, Elsie Beatrice, born in 1899 and William Hedley, born in 1901 and died in 1903.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 31, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 3, Blenheim Terrace, Eightlands Road.

Bertram was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish Day School and attended St. James's Mission Church and Sunday school on Vulcan Road. He was employed by Messrs Hemingway and Fozard, Watergate, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in March 1916 serving as Private 242358 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in August that same year. He was hit by a gas shell on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1918 and died from gas poisoning in a Casualty Clearing Station at Esquelbecq, France on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1918, he was buried in Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, Nord, France. Bertram was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Esquelbecq is a village near the Belgian frontier, 24 kilometres north of Hazebrouck and the same distance south of Dunkirk. Esquelbecq Military Cemetery is about one kilometre west of the village, and was opened in April 1918 during the early stages of the German offensive in Flanders, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian and 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Esquelbecq. It was closed in September 1918. The cemetery contains 578 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Bertram 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 Dewsbury Parish School War Memorial and on the War Memorial from St. James's Mission Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

## Bertram Cecil Ives

242358, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 19 June 1918 Age 21

Son of William and Ann Ives, of 1, Blenheim Place, Eightlands Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Esquelbecq Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

