



Ernest Stables

1885 – 1917

Ernest was born in Birstall on 1st September 1885. His father was James Walter Stables, an engineer and marine fitter born in Gildersome near Leeds in 1856 and died in 1895. His mother was Ann (nee Bedford) born in Gildersome in 1855 and died in 1922. They were married on 1st April 1882 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall.

They also had two daughters; Bertha, born in 1880 and Amy, born in 1890.

On the 1891 Census they lived at 29, White Lea, Batley.

Ann became a shopkeeper following the death of her husband. In 1901 the family lived at 2, Ridings Street, White Lea, Batley. Ann was remarried in 1905 to John Barraclough (born in Adwalton near Leeds in 1856 and died in 1919). In 1911 they were living at Hodgson Lane, Drighlington.

Ernest was connected to White Lea United Methodist Church where he played the organ and later attended Westborough United Methodist Church where he was a member of the choir. He was married in 1908 to Mary Firth (born in Notton near Wakefield in 1884 and died in 1959) they had a daughter, Elsie, born in 1913. They lived at Greenberg Terrace, Knowles Hill Road, Dewsbury Moor and later at Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury Moor. Prior to enlistment he was employed at Messrs Ingram and Richardson, Rag Merchants, Dewsbury. Mary later moved to live at 23, Winton Place, Dark Lane, Batley.

He attested in July 1916 into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was later transferred to the 198th Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) serving as Private 58419. He was killed in action during the aftermath of the Battle of Arras on 21st May 1917 when a shell hit his gun emplacement killing the crew instantaneously. He was buried in the field but his grave must have been lost or destroyed in later battles. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918

Ernest is also 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 and on the Memorial Plaque in Westborough United Methodist Church.

In Memory of
Private
Ernest Stables

58419, 198th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 21 May 1917

Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

