



## **Ernest Berry**

### **1888 - 1916**

Ernest was born in Birstall in 1888. His father was Matthew Berry, a Drayman born in Batley in 1863 and died in 1935. His mother was Charlotte (née Roberts) born in West Ardsley in 1857 and died in 1940. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1885.

Their other children were; Joseph, born in 1885, John, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Willie, born in 1891, Mabel, born in 1892, Fred, born in 1894 and died in 1896, Annie, born in 1895, Fanny, born in 1897 and died in 1897 and Alfred, born in 1899.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 2, Railway Terrace, Bradford, Road, Batley, in 1901 at Mill Street East, Savile Town, in 1911 at 70, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury and later at Squirrel Hall Cottage, Dewsbury Moor.

Ernest enlisted pre-war in 1908 and was in China at the outbreak of hostilities. He arrived on the Western Front on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1915 serving as Private 10306 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but returned home after suffering from frostbite. During the early morning of 29<sup>th</sup> June 1916 he was struck by a shell fragment and seriously wounded. These wounds included injuries to his leg and arm, as well as a fractured jaw. He was evacuated to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance at Avesnes-le-Comte, where he died at 7.15 a.m. on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1916, having never regained consciousness. A Sister Evens wrote to his parents informing them of his final hours, which she described as peaceful as he "*just slept away*". He is buried in Habarcq Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His superior officer wrote to say "*Your son was a true British soldier, always to hand to fulfil with alacrity any duty, and amongst them the most dangerous task of patrolling. The battalion has lost a good soldier, and none knew this better than those who were directly connected with him as we in the bombing company were*".

Habarcq is a village 12 kilometres west of Arras, a little south of the main Arras-St. Pol road. The Communal Cemetery is on the north side of the village on the road to Haute-Avesnes. The Extension was begun by French troops in 1914 and was used by them until March 1916. Commonwealth forces then took over this part of the front and field ambulances continued to bury in the extension. In March 1917, the extension was closed, except for two later burials. Habarcq Communal Cemetery Extension contains 179 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 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 War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of  
Private  
**E Berry**

10306, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 30 June 1916

Remembered with Honour  
**Habarcq Communal Cemetery Extension**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of The British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.