



## **Ernest Smith**

### **1889 – 1915**

Ernest was born in Thornhill Lees in 1889. His father was Thomas Smith, a Glass Bottle Maker born in Thornhill in 1863 and died in 1936. His mother was Sarah Elizabeth (nee Ramsden) born in Swinton, Yorkshire in 1862 and died in 1904. They were married on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1887 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

Their other children were; Joseph, born in 1887 and served in World War 1, Gilbert, born in 1890 and died in 1890, Herbert, born in 1891, Sarah Ann, born in 1893, Harold, born in 1894 and died in 1894, Charlotte, born in 1895, George Alexander, born in 1898 and John Edward, born in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 15, Dunford Street, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 at Dale Street, Thornhill Lees. In 1911 Ernest is living as a boarder with Mr. Absalom Senior and his son Willie, at Syke End Lane, Wakefield Road, Earlsheaton. His father is living with son George at the home of his late wife's mother, Mrs. Mary Ramsden at 15, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees.

Thomas was remarried to a widow, Mary Jane Brown (nee Innes; born in 1865 and died in 1933) on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1911 at Holy Innocents Church. At the time of Ernest's death, his father and stepmother lived at 7, Providence Street, Thornhill Lees.

Ernest was a single man who worked as a Bottle Hand at Kilner Brothers Glassworks Factory in Thornhill Lees.

He served as Private 2222 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed near Ypres on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1915 and was buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

According to the local newspaper report of his death, in the last letter he had sent home he had been looking forward longingly to getting home for Christmas.

For much of the First World War, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. Bard Cottage was a house a little set back from the line, close to a bridge called Bard's Causeway, and the cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank. Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918 and they reflect the presence of the 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding), the 38<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) and other infantry divisions in the northern sectors of the Ypres Salient, as well as the advance of artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917. There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 39 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate three casualties known to be buried among them.

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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of  
Private  
**E Smith**

2222, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 21 November 1915

Remembered with Honour  
**Bard Cottage Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

