



Great War in the Villages Project

ERNEST HERITAGE:

Died from suspected dysentery on 23rd November 1918. Age 21.
Private, 7th/8th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 49th Brigade, 16th (Irish) Division

Ernest was born in Ettington in 1898, the youngest of the five sons of John and Eliza Heritage. His father was from a very old Ettington family, his ancestors having held the licence of the Saracen's Head throughout the 19th century. John himself had become a carrier in Hockley Lane and ran the Plumbers Arms pub there for a few years. However by 1911 he had moved onto the main road and was working as a domestic gardener. Ernest was then still at school.

Before his enlistment in November 1915 he worked as a chauffeur for Mr Lowe of Fosse House. He enlisted for service in February 1916 and served initially with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment before being transferred to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He was serving in France when taken prisoner on or about 21st March 1918. At the end of the war he was in the Czersk Prisoner of War Camp in Poland, where he died only 12 days after Armistice Day. He was buried in the Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery.

After his death his parents placed the following notice: "In loving memory of our dear son, Ernest Heritage, of Ettington, who died November 23rd 1918 in Czersk Hospital, West Prussia, aged 21 years

*No loved one stood beside him to bid him last farewell
No word of comfort could he have from those who loved him well
We often think of days gone by, when we were all together
A shadow o'er our lives is cast, our loved one gone for ever."*

(Many thanks to Mr. Derek Heritage for his kind help in compiling this report)

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