

Ernest Harry Kyte.

Gunner, No. 62512 Royal Field Artillery.

Ernest Harry Kyte was born in Wellesbourne on the 10th June 1887 the son of John and Elizabeth Kyte. At the time of his son's birth John worked as a Waggoner on a farm and the family lived in Chapel Street, Wellesbourne Mountford. Ernest was the fourth of five children and he attended the local village school. After completing his education he worked as an Errand Boy for a local bakerⁱ.

Ernest may have already left Wellesbourne by the time the war had started in 1914. The census of 1911 here does not particularly help as he is recorded as being in two locations: with his parents in Cherry Orchard, Wellesbourne Hastings and at the Stables, Davenport Road, Coventryⁱⁱ, a part of the property occupied by William Henry Herbert, the cycle manufacturer and brother of Machine tool manufacturer, Alfred Herbert. In both cases Ernest is shown to be working as a gardener.

In the spring of 1912 Ernest married Amy White somewhere within the Warwickshire Registration district of Nuneaton.

The fact that Ernest served during the war is indicated by the appearance of his name on the Wellesbourne Church of England School Roll of Honour. Amongst the military records currently available there are no service or pension records that can be clearly linked, beyond a doubt, to Ernest.

Further investigations however revealed that the name Ernest Harry Kyte was not a common one and between 1837 and 1954 appears no more than twice in each of the births, marriages or death records of the National Statistics. Within the recipient records of medals presented to soldiers at the end of the war is that of a Gunner Ernest Harry Kyte, No. 52512 Royal Field Artillery who was awarded the British and Victory medals together with the 1914-1915 Star. It has been possible to date the School Roll of Honour to about November 1915 and would therefore indicate that Ernest was then a serving soldier and thus entitled to receive the 1914-1915 Star presented only to those who served overseas prior to the end of 1915. Further checks on men with similar or variations and derivations of the name produced no positive results. It is therefore realistic to assume that Soldier No. 52512 is 'most probably' Wellesbourne's Ernest Harry Kyte. Regrettably further details of his term of service etc may never be known.

Listed in the 1939 Register are the names of Ernest and his wife Amy living at No. 6 Checker St. Bedworth. He was a surface worker at the local coal pit. Ernest died during the first quarter of 1954 aged 66 years.

Researched by Grev Hudson. (May 2016)(grev.hudson@btinternet.com)

ⁱ Census 1901.

ⁱⁱ Instructions were given that the form for the Census of 1911 was to be completed on the Sunday evening of the 2nd April. The possibility of Ernest visiting his parents on that day and arrival back in Coventry later that evening could be the explanation for the duplication.

Other sources: Wellesbourne School Records CR371/1, CR371/2, CR371/3, CR371/4. (Warwick RO)
Ancestry.com and Find my Past.