



Private Ernest Henry Colman Kelsey 23281



9th Battalion Leicester Regiment

Killed in action Monday 25th September 1916

Age 25

Thiepval Memorial France

Pier and Face 2C and 3A

Burbage War Memorial, Wesleyan Memorial,
Congregational Church Memorial,
Ancient Order of Foresters Memorial.



Ernest Kelsey was the eldest of the seven children of William and Ann Kelsey. Born in June 1890 at Pauls Yard, Lutterworth Road, Burbage. As the family grew they lived in various homes around the village. William, his father, was self-employed as a wood seller and carrier.

In the early 1900s pockets of land were being sold off on Coventry Road and it is believed William purchased one of these. By 1911 the family were living in a caravan at 27 Three Pots Road, now Coventry Road Burbage.

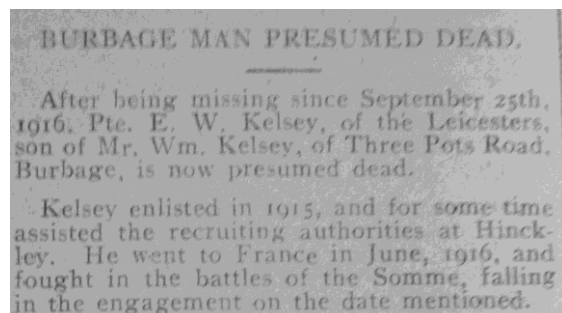
Ernest may have attended the Burbage National School with his younger brothers. On leaving school he worked in the hosiery trade.

On the 1911 census Ernest is lodging with Samuel and Charlotte Everton at 5 Freemans Lane.

In September 1914, at the outbreak of war his younger brother Reuben enlisted with the Leicester Regiment.

By 1915 Ernest had left his employment at Atkins Hosiery Manufacturers in Hinckley and enlisted. For some time, he worked with the recruiting authorities in Hinckley, however by June 1916 he was posted to the Somme.

Ernest survived many of the bloody battles of the Somme. On the afternoon of the 25th September 1916 four Leicester companies were set to capture the village of Thiepval which had been the original aim of 1st July. Some heavy casualties were sustained and one company lost all its officers. It is at this time Ernest went missing presumed dead.

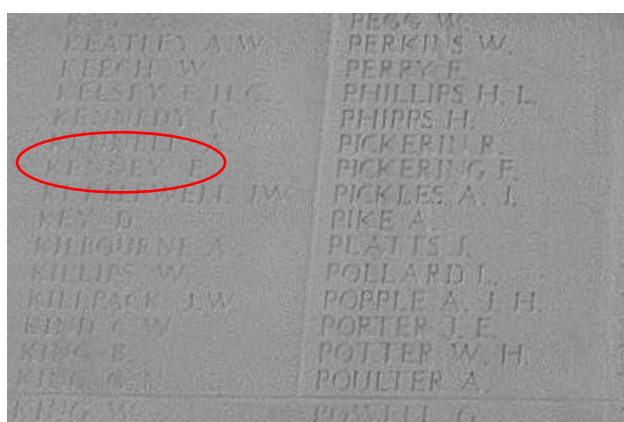


Ernest Kelsey's name is one of the 72,000 on the Thiepval Memorial who died in the Somme area before March 1918 and have no known grave.

The younger brother Rueben Kelsey survived until May 1917 when he died of his wounds sustained in France. He has a Commonwealth War Grave in St Catherine's Churchyard.

The Kelsey's are one of the three pairs of Brothers that fell in WW1.

The family appears to have been quite well known around the village and were members of the Court of Robin Hood Lodge of the Leicestershire Foresters. Both their names are on the Leicester Memorial.



Thiepval Memorial



Order of Foresters Memorial



Order of Foresters Memorial