**Ernest Drake**



**Drake Family of Lime Kiln Cottages, Oxhey**

Ernest Drake was the second of ten children born to Henry and Florence Drake of ‘Lime Kiln Cottages’, Chalk Hill, Oxhey. His father was a lime burner. He joined the Rifle Brigade before the war and his records show he was disciplined for ‘having a light in his tent after lights out’ and ‘gambling’. Ernest worked for two or three years as a printer but left this job because his employers ‘did not think he would fit in the printing trade and so did not feel justified in burdening him with apprenticeship ’. His army service, including wartime, amounted to 6 years and 244 days and he served s Rifleman 5/9119. He died of wounds received at Ploegsteert on 16 January 1915. He was buried at Rifle House Cemetery in Belgium, grave IV.J.1. and is commemorated at St Matthew’s Church Oxhey. His older brother, Henry Charles Drake, died in 1917.

 Thanks to Jonty Miles, Herts at War Project. NA Documents

