



Ernest Wilson Jackson

31 Park Grove

Ernest Jackson was a member of the largest local family at the time of the 1911 census. He was born in August 1886 to Benjamin Jackson and Eliza (nee Wilson). Ernest was the seventh of nine children - 5 daughters and 3 sons – another child, Bertha, died as a baby.

Ernest’s father was a pattern maker and the family lived in Cedar Street (1891), 9 Woodland Road (1901), moving to 31 Park Grove in about 1905. In the 1911 census both parents and seven of the children (aged 18 to 38) were living at the house. At this date Ernest was working as a Merchant’s Clerk aged 24.

We know from the 1918 Register of Electors that Ernest was away on military or naval service at the end of the war and with the help of military experts we have traced his record. Initially he was attached to the 18th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters which was raised in Derby on 27 July 1915. This was a “Bantam” Regiment where the minimum height requirement for recruits was reduced from 5 ft 3 in (160 cm) to 5 ft (150 cm).

Between September 1915 and January 1916 he trained with Nottingham University College’s Office Cadet Corps, after which he was appointed temporary 2nd Lieutenant. When the 18th Derby Battalion was absorbed by the Yorkshire Regiment in April

1916 he was transferred to 17th Sherwood Foresters (Welbeck Rangers) Battalion and it was with them he was posted to France on 20 July 1916.



© IWM (Q 4594) Battle of the Ancre. Troops of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire) Regiment cooking their 'Pork and Beans' ration in dixies. Near St. Pierre Divion, November 1916

His regiment was in action during the Battle of the Somme, including fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre heights and the capture of Schwaben Redoubt and Stuff Trench. He stayed in France until December 1916, after which it is unclear where he served until his military record shows that in July 1917 he was promoted to temporary Lieutenant and at the same time completed a Lewis Gun refresher course.

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Ernest Wilson Jackson

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By June 1918 he was commanding a company in the 87th Training Reserve Battalion, having been promoted to acting Captain. He was posted at Clipstone Camp, near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. Here he helped to train new recruits for the front line – the camp held upwards of 30,000 men billeted in wooden huts. Soldiers practised digging trenches, practised on rifle ranges and undertook training marches.



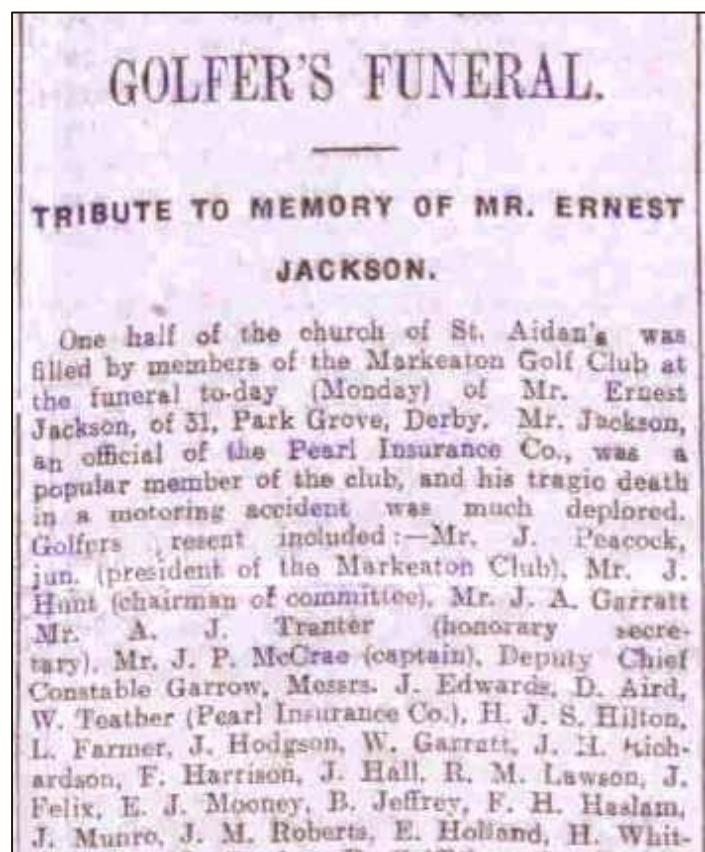
A massive army camp of wooden huts was built at Clipstone near Mansfield to train men for the army in WW1. The camp, which opened in 1915, was one of many constructed around the country. For more pictures and information on Clipstone see http://www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk/page/clipstone_camp_ww1

Ernest's proximity to home allowed him to witness the marriages of his sisters, Gertrude and Florence in July and August 1918 – Florence married Charles B Pool whose family lived at 9 White Street.

In its final years Clipstone was used as a demobilisation camp and Ernest himself was demobilised in May 1919. He then obtained an appointment at the Ministry of Pensions created in 1916 to handle the

payment of war pensions to former members of the Armed Forces and their dependants. Later he was an inspector with the Pearl Assurance Company, continuing to live at home with his mother and oldest sister, Lizzie.

Ernest died aged 39 in a motoring accident on 22 December 1925 in Mackworth, when he fell out of the "dicky" seat of a car that swerved in fog to avoid a parked lorry. He was a keen golfer, playing for Markeaton Golf Club in most of their matches, and many club members went to his funeral, held at St Aidan's Church. Sadly, a report of the funeral lists his fiancée – Miss Holden – as one of the mourners.



Extract of a report on the funeral of Ernest Jackson held on 28 December 1925. The service was held at St Aidan's Church which stood where Dayton Court Apartments are now located (opposite the Jonty Farmer). © Local World Limited, British Newspaper Archive.