

**All Saints Churchyard,  
Ecclesall, Yorkshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**177174 GUNNER**

**E. BATHE**

**ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY**

**20TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 39**

## Ernest BATHE

Ernest Bathe was born on 4th March, 1878 at Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, England to parents Richard and Sarah Bathe (nee Midwinter). He was baptised on 27th August, 1878 at Biddulph, Stafford, England.

The 1881 England Census recorded Ernest Bathe as a 3 year old, living with his family at 5 Montgomery Road, Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Richard Bathe (Wine & Spirit Merchant, aged 40, born Macclesfield, Cheshire) & Sarah Bathe (Wine & Spirit Merchant's wife, aged 30, born London, Middlesex). Ernest was one of five children listed on this Census (all born Sheffield, Yorkshire) – Frank Bathe (Scholar, aged 8), Ethel Bathe (Scholar, aged 6), Jessie Bathe (aged 5) then Ernest & Lilly Bathe (aged 1). Also listed was Ada Cooper (General Servant – Nurse, aged 16).

The 1891 England Census recorded Ernest Bathe as a 13 year old Scholar, living with his family at 5 Montgomery Road, Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Richard Bathe (Wine & Spirit Merchant, aged 50) & Sarah Bathe (aged 45). Ernest was one of three children listed on this Census – Florence (aged 21, born Sheffield Yorkshire), then Ernest & William Henry Bathe (Scholar, aged 9, born Sheffield Yorkshire). Also listed was Sarah Ann Cox (General Servant, aged 18).

Richard Bathe, father of Ernest Bathe, died on 23rd October, 1891.

The 1901 England Census recorded Ernest Bathe as a 22 year old, Mechanic in the Cycle trade (not working) living with his widowed mother – Sarah Bathe (retired Publican, aged 54) at 5 Montgomery Road, Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire, England. Ernest was one of five children living at home in this Census – Frank Bathe (Wine & Spirit Clerk, married, aged 27), Ethel Bathe (Shorthand Typist, aged 26) then Ernest, Jessie Bathe (aged 24) & William Bathe (Apprentice –cutler, aged 18).

Ernest Bathe married Gertrude Hoyland in December quarter, 1904 in the district of Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

A birth was registered in the June quarter, 1906 for Edward Leslie Bathe in the district of Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, England. A death was registered in the September quarter, 1906 for Edward Leslie Bathe in the district of Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

A daughter – Marguerite Enid Bathe was born on 11th January, 1909 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England.

The 1911 White's Directory of Sheffield listed Ernest Bathe, Wine & Spirit Merchant, 15 Edge Hill Rd. His mother was listed on the next line as Mrs Sarah Bathe, 5 Montgomery Road.

The 1911 England Census recorded Ernest Bathe as a 34 year old, married Store-keeper (Wine & Spirits) living with his wife – Gertrude Bathe (aged 28, born Derby, Derbyshire) in a 5 roomed dwelling at 15 Edgehill Rd, Sheffield, Yorkshire West Riding, England. Ernest & Gertrude had been married for 6 years & had 2 children, 1 having since died. Their only child – Marguerite Enid Bathe (aged 2, born Sheffield, Yorks) was listed on the Census along with a Boarder – John Hoyland (General Engineer, aged 24, born Sheffield, Yorks).

A daughter – Joan Rivers Bathe, (mother's surname Hoyland) a birth was registered in September quarter, 1914 in the district of Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Ernest Bathe enlisted with the Royal Garrison Artillery at Sheffield, Yorkshire. He was given the rank of Gunner & a service number of 177174. *(It appears that the Service Record for Ernest Bathe has not survived so there are no further details).*

### **Royal Garrison Artillery**

The Royal Garrison Artillery (R.G.A.) was formed in 1899 as a distinct arm of the British Army's Royal Regiment of Artillery serving alongside the other two arms of the Regiment, the Royal Field Artillery (R.F.A.) and the Royal Horse Artillery (R.H.A.). The R.G.A. were the 'technical' branch of the Royal Artillery who were responsible for much of the professionalisation of technical gunnery that was to occur during the First World War.

From 1914 when the army possessed very little heavy artillery, the R.G.A. grew into a very large component of the British forces on the battlefield, being armed with heavy, large-calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line and had immense destructive power.

With the new long-range small arms available to the infantry in the era before World War I, artillery fighting in the infantry line was increasingly brought under fire. The solution to this was the principle of standing off and engaging the enemy with indirect fire. Henceforth the artillery would be positioned well behind the infantry battle line, firing at unseen targets, at co-ordinates on a map calculated with geometry and mathematics. As the war developed, the heavy artillery and the techniques of long-range artillery were massively developed. The R.G.A. was often supported by the Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) who had devised a system where pilots could use wireless telegraphy to help the artillery hit specific targets. The R.F.C. aircraft carried a wireless set and a map and after identifying the position of an enemy target the pilot was able to transmit messages such as A5, B3, etc. in morse code to a R.F.C. land station attached to a heavy artillery units, such as Royal Garrison Artillery Siege Batteries.

The R.G.A. significantly increased in size, especially the Heavy Batteries, which increased from 32 Regular and Territorial Force batteries in 1914 to 117 by the end of the war. Similarly the Siege Batteries increased from just three Regular batteries in 1914 to 401 by the end of the war.

Siege batteries (such as 9th Siege Battery at the Battle of the Somme) had the largest guns and howitzers; mounted on railways or on fixed concrete emplacements. *(Information from Wikipedia)*

Gunner Ernest Bathe was wounded in action on 15th September, 1918. According to UK Register of Soldiers' Effects Gunner Ernest Bathe was attached to 11th Siege Battery, R.G.A. (Royal Garrison Artillery).

### **11th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery**

The 11th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery first proceeded to France on 21st April, 1915.

The Siege Batteries were deployed behind the front line, tasked with destroying enemy artillery, supply routes, railways and stores. The batteries were equipped with heavy Howitzer guns firing large calibre 4, 6, 8 or 9.2 inch shells in a high trajectory.

Gunner Ernest Bathe, of 11th Siege Battery, R.G.A. (Royal Garrison Artillery), died on 20th October, 1918 at 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, Wales from wounds received in action.

A death for Ernest Bathe, aged 40, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Pontypridd, Glamorganshire.

Newspaper notice: *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England - 23 October, 1918:

### **DEATHS**

*BATHE – October 20th, at Caerphilly, South Wales, Ernest, aged 39 years, died from wounds received in action September 15th, the beloved husband of Gertrude Bathe, 9, Brentwood Road.*

Gunner Ernest Bathe was buried on 24th October, 1918 in All Saints Churchyard, Ecclesall, Sheffield, Yorkshire, England – Plot number 1493 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Probate details:

*Bathe, Ernest of 9 Brentwood-road, Sheffield, died 20 October 1918 at Caerphilly, Glamorganshire. Administration London 24 January to Gertrude Hayward (wife of Arthur Hayward). Effects £428 17s. 1d.*

Gertrude Bathe, widow of the late Gunner Ernest Bathe married Arthur Hayward in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

The 1919 White's Directory of Sheffield listed Ernest Bathe, Storekeeper, of 9 Brent wood Road.

[The 1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 & 1937 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wentworth, subdivision of Vaucluse, NSW listed Gertrude & Arthur Hayward, Mechanic, of Grange, Young Street, Vaucluse.]

Gunner Ernest Bathe was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Ernest Bathe – service number 177174, of Royal Garrison Artillery. He was the son of Richard and Sarah Bathe, of Sharrow, Sheffield; husband of Gertrude Hayward (formerly Bathe), of Grange Cottage, Young St., Vaucluse, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Gunner Ernest Bathe is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

*(Note: It appears that Gunner Bathe's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.)*



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** *(Capital Photographer)*

Ernest Bathe is remembered on the Ecclesall Roll of Honour in Memorial Hall Ecclesall, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.



**Roll of Honour in Memorial Hall, Ecclesall** *(Photo with permission from Sheffieldsoldierww1)*

Ernest Bathe is remembered on the All Saint's Church Memorial Panel, Ecclesall, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.



All Saint's Church Memorial Panel, Ecclesall (Photos from War Memorials On line – J. G. Potter)



The Ecclesall War Memorial, located 80 metres south of All Saints Church, Ecclesall, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England, does not list individual names. An inscription on the War Memorial reads “*Their Names Are Recorded In the Chapel Of The Parish Church.*”



**Ecclesall War Memorial** (Photo above by David Larkin; below by J. G. Potter)



## All Saints Churchyard, Ecclesall, Yorkshire, England

All Saints Churchyard, Ecclesall contains 32 Commonwealth War Graves – 14 from World War 1 & 18 from World War 2.



Lych Gate at All Saints Church, Ecclesall (Photo by Graham Hogg)



All Saints Church, Ecclesall (Photo by Mike Berrell)

Photo of Gunner E. Bathe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Churchyard, Ecclesall, Yorkshire, England.



*(Photos courtesy of Sheffieldsoldierww1.co.uk.)*





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*(Photos courtesy of Sheffieldsoldierww1.co.uk.)*





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