

# David Elks

Church View, Holmes Chapel

## Killed in Action 1<sup>st</sup> November 1918



### His Story

David Elks was born in May 1883 the son of Samuel and Ann in Pendlebury, Lancashire. We know that in 1891 he was living at 17 Park Street, Pendleton aged 7 and at school. In 1901 he was still in Pendleton and living at 12 Ernest Street. He was aged 17 and a worker at Plaiting Down Paper Mill. By 1911 he had moved as a boarder to the house of Charles M Pollitt, 102 Broughton Rd, Pendleton, aged 27. His job was now described as a wallpaper stainer.

In November 1911 he married Edith Gorton at St Barnabas Church, Pendleton and by the outbreak of war he had two children Christina and Edith.

Shortly after this he moved to Holmes Chapel and he was living at Church View. The move related to the opening of the wallpaper works on Macclesfield Road which attracted a number of people from the Pendleton area.

### His War Record

He was called up in 1917 and enlisted at Middlewich as a Private into the 2/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment Nr 29630. The Parish Magazine records his enlistment and in October 1918 that he was in hospital suffering from gas poisoning. This had occurred during the battles in France and Flanders.

He was killed in action in France on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1918. He was finally buried in Valenciennes Communal Cemetery (Plot 3 Row D Grave 22) having been removed from Artres British Cemetery on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1920.

This cemetery, on the road from Artres to Preseau, contained the graves of 32 soldiers of the 61st (South Midland) Division who fell on the 1st November 1918, one of whom was David Elks.

He received the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.