

## *Ernest Thomas Brain*

Private 1/4th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Enlisted at Bath, September 13th, 1914. Served in India and Mesopotamia, at the Battle of Kut-el-Amara. Reported missing March 8th, 1916, stated to have been killed in action, April 4th, 1919. General Service and Victory Medals.



ERNEST BRAIN WAS born in Kingswood in Bristol in 1896 to Tom and Elizabeth Rose (née Cox). By 1901, when still only four years old, his family situation appears to have changed dramatically, and Ernest was living with his grandparents in George Lane in Marshfield. His parents appear to have separated, as in 1902 his mother married Walter Holton and they lived in Colerne, where they had at least four children – all girls – Alice, Frances, Florence and Nellie. By 1911 the Holton family was living in Westrip (Westrop) in Corsham, and Ernest, aged 15, was employed as an errand boy for the local chemist. His stepfather Walter was working as a farm labourer.

*War Records of Corsham* details that Ernest enlisted for the Army in Bath in September 1914, aged 18, and then served in India and Mesopotamia as a Private in the Somerset Light Infantry. He was reported as missing and presumed dead on 8th March 1916.

Three local men fighting in Mesopotamia all died on the same day: Ernest Brain, George Laver and Alfred Lodge.