

Ernest David Stock DCM

Lance-Corporal, 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Enlisted in 1895 at the age of 16, and went to India. Had twenty years and three months' service in the Army. Fought with the B.E.F. in France. Killed in action at the Battle of Loos, September 25th, 1915. Buried in the Guards' Cemetery, Windy Corner, Givenchy. Awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry, General Service and Victory Medals.



ERNEST DAVID STOCK was born in Corsham in 1878. His parents were John and Eleanor (née Little). His father was a boot and shoe maker who by 1881 had moved away to Reading where he had his own shop employing three people. Ernest had a sister, Winifred. In 1891 Ernest was back in Corsham as a scholar, living with his grandparents on Pickwick Road. His grandfather was James Little who was also a boot and shoe maker, as was his Uncle William. His Uncle Frederick was a tailor.

Ernest was a career soldier who, according to *War Records of Corsham*, enlisted when he was only 16 in 1895. He was living in Rochester in Kent in 1906 when he married Patience Eliza Gooding; in 1907 they had a daughter, Winifred Patience. Ernest's service record details that he was a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and that he was a Bandsman. This is confirmed by the citation for his Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1914, in which he was recognised for his gallantry and 'very good work as a

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stretcher-bearer under heavy fire throughout night operations on 23rd October 1914'.

He had over 20 years' Army service and had achieved the rank of Lance Corporal when he was killed in action at the Battle of Loos on 25th September 1915.

Ernest Stock is buried in the Guards Cemetery in Givenchy and is one of only two Corsham soldiers who received a Distinguished Conduct Medal in World War I.