RALPH BLANEY

1889 – 21/8/1918

Ralph was one of eleven children. He was the second son of William George (known as George) Blaney and his wife Lydia (nee Skinner). Ralph's Grandmother, Henrietta Louisa Blaney ran the shop at Blaney's Corner along with her daughters Bessie and Alice (Ralph's Aunts).



This is Alice Blaney outside the shop in around 1915.

Ralph grew up just around the corner from the shop - in Flowers Drove. At the time of the 1911 census he was aged 22 and working as a builder, his father worked as a brickmaker at the family business at Stoney Down.

In 1916 Ralph married Ada Florence Pike from Shapwick.

After less than two years of marriage Ralph had enlisted in the 2nd South Lancashire Regiment. He died 21st August 1918.

BLANEY, Pte. Ralph Thomas, 37248. "B" Coy. 2nd Bn. South Lancashire Regt. Died of bronchitis 21st Aug., 1918. Age 30. Son of George and Lydia Blaney, of Lytchett Matravers, Dorset; husband of Ada Florence Hales (formerly Blaney), of Shapwick, Blandford, Dorset. I. K. 8.

In 1921 Ada was living with her Father and Mother in law in Flowers Drove. She married Henry Thomas Hales in 1923 and they had two daughters Christine and Sylvia.

Ada and her husband, Henry, took over running the Shop at Blaney's Corner when Ralph's Aunt Alice died in 1937. Henry Hales had previously been a shopkeeper in Spetisbury.

Ralph Blaney was a Prisoner of War when he died in 1918 in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. He is buried in Niederzwehen Cemetery, Hesse.



The Cemetery was begun early in 1915 specifically to bury prisoners of war, mainly British and French from the Western Front. This included bringing dead prisoners from at least a dozen smaller camps around Germany.

The ground is officially British soil owned by the British Crown.

Written by Hilary Hayes. Sept.2025.