



Ernest Garratt 28 Wheeldon Avenue

When the First World War broke out in 1914 Ernest was living at 28 Wheeldon Avenue with his wife Elizabeth. The 1911 census records them as having a maid – Mary Marks, aged 15. Their house was split in two with a school teacher sharing the house.

Ernest earned his living as a Commercial Traveller for Nottingham Saw Mills Company. The youngest of five siblings, he had spent most of his childhood living in Franchise Street, Derby. His widowed father, sister and one of his brothers moved to Wheeldon Avenue (no 18) in about 1904 – two years later Ernest and Elizabeth, who had married in 1902, moved to join them, living up the road at 28.

The British government were worried about the lack of recruits for the armed services and in March 1916 conscription was introduced for single men, aged 18 to 41. Conscription for married men followed in May 1916. Aged 39, Ernest fell into this category, and his army records show that he had a medical on 18 May 1916 when he was declared fit for military service. He enlisted 24 June 1916, serving with the Army Ordnance Corps.

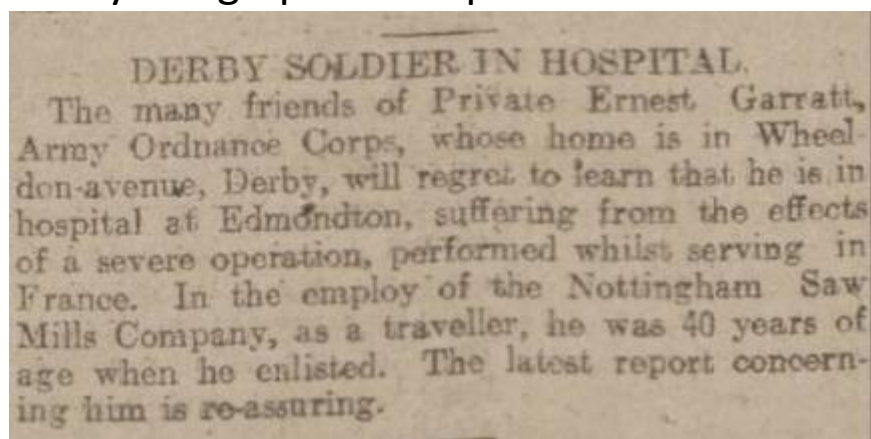
The Army Ordnance Corps was both a supply and repair unit. In supplies it had responsibility for weapons, armoured vehicles and other military equipment, ammunition and clothing and minor functions such as laundry, mobile baths and

photography. The repair of certain categories of army equipment was also its responsibility, including maintenance and repair of munitions and armaments.

Ernest was posted to France in July 1917, and he served there, until 29 March 1918 where he was admitted to a Field Hospital with a perforated gastric ulcer. He was shipped home to England in early April. His medical records state:

“Was operated on for perforated pyloric ulcer. Has three operation scars on abdomen. General condition is weak. He gets tired and shaky after slight exertion.”

The following notice appeared in the Derby Daily Telegraph on 8 April 1918:



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The medical board agreed that his condition was aggravated by the stress of active service and he was discharged in July 1918 as unfit for military service.

Ernest returned to Wheeldon Avenue to enjoy a long life with Elizabeth – they both died early in 1949, but had moved away from Wheeldon Avenue by this date.