

## Horace Blackwell MM.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1919 a notice appeared in the Cambridge Daily News, under the heading of,

*Information Wanted Concerning Duxford Man.*

*Mr and Mrs Blackwell, Green Street Duxford, will be grateful if any returned prisoner of war can give any information re. Pte. Horace Blackwell, No. A/2007, 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps.*

Private Blackwell, MM had gone missing on the first day of the German spring offensive in late March 1918 when the British lines were over run and the German army advanced towards the coast. From the notice published in January 1919, it appears he was lost in the chaos that ensued and his family did not find out his fate until later.

Horace was born in Duxford to James and Ann who had a large family of at least five sons and one daughter, all of whom were born in the village. His parents both died before the start of the war, so it was probably his oldest brother William and his wife who sought information of his whereabouts in 1919.

Prior to enlisting, Horace lived in Belvedere, Kent and he enlisted in Birmingham. He was awarded the Military Medal sometime prior to his death for bravery. Some information must have been forthcoming after the newspaper was published, as he is listed as having **died of his wounds on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918**, the first day of the German offensive. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France.