

Ernest Spencer

19th April 1897 - 1972

Ernest was born in Bolton on **19th April 1897** and baptised at St Thomas the Apostle, Eskrick Street, Halliwell, Bolton on 18th May 1897 by D. Bernard Taylor. The Spencer family were living at 16 McDonna (shown on the record as 16 McDonald Street) Street, Halliwell. Father John was described as a 'bleacher'.



St Thomas the Apostle

In **1891** father John was living with his parents Jonathan & Betsy Spencer and their children (9 including John) at 553 Halliwell Road, Bolton. John was aged 22, single, and worked as a 'Calico Bleacher'.

He married **Mary Ellen Hardman** on 19th December 1896 at the Parish Church, Astley Bridge. He was 28 and his wife 25. He was described as a 'Bleacher' and his wife as a 'Winder'. His father Jonathan was a 'Finisher' and her father **Samuel Hardman** as a 'Labourer'.¹ The wedding was witnessed by Ann Hardman (her mother?) and Joseph Spencer

his brother.

On the **1901** Census the family were at 16 McDonna Street, Bolton. Father **John** (31 years of age) was a 'Calico Bowker' in a 'Bleachworks' – the term for a calico bleacher. His mother **Mary E (Ellen)** was 30 years of age. Both parents were born in Bolton (Halliwell and Eagley respectively). **ERNEST** was aged three and he had a brother **Ralph** aged one year (also Bolton born). There was a boarder with the name **John Spencer**, who was his uncle (born circa. 1872). He was a 19 year old 'Flyer Maker at Machine Works'. This was work in an Engineering Workshop. A 'Fly' is the mechanism which moves back and forth so that the thread is wound neatly on a spindle.

By **1911** they were residing at the same address. Father is a 'Foreman Bleacher' in a 'Bleachworks'. Ernest, aged 13, was a 'Plaiter Down' in a 'Bleachworks'. This is a method of laying the cloth – winding goods on rollers and unwinding cloth before the material was placed on a continuous machine. In addition to Ernest and Ralph there were now three other brothers **Arthur** aged 9, **Walter** aged 2 and **John** aged 2 months. All were born in Bolton.

Brother **Ralph** died in 1990, **Arthur** died in 1975 (he had married **Jane Gibbard** who died in 1984. They had a daughter **Joan Gibbard Spencer**, born 1931, and who died in the year 2000). **John**, who was 2 months old in 1911, died shortly after the Census in 1911

¹ Manchester, England, Marriages and Banns 1754-1930

Father **John** died in 1956, and mother **Mary Ellen** died in 1944 at 32 McDonna Street [the house next door to where the Taylors – Joseph & Percy lived in 1911].

Ernest Spencer died, aged 75 years, in 1972.

No service records have yet been identified. If you can help please contact on

www.friendsofsmithillshall.co.uk