**Ernest Albert Pearson MM**

**No 385**

Grew up in Ascot Vale and enlisted in June 1916, aged only 16 years old (gave his age as 18). He served with the 37th Battalion on the Western Front seeing action on the Somme, Messines, Broodseinde and Passchendaele. He was wounded at Armentieres, an action for which he was later awarded the ‘Military Medal’, and at the hospital he was discovered to be underage. He then had to serve at the hospital until he was the right age and upon reaching 18 he transferred to the ‘Australian Flying Corps’ and became a pilot. However the war ended before he could fly in action.

In the 1960’s he moved to Mt Evelyn and ran the store next to the Primary School, eventually owning most of the land between the Primary School & St Mary’s. He passed away in 1981.

It is believed that the ammunition belt relates to his AFC uniform.