



Joseph Henry Woodcock

1886 - 1917

Joseph was born on 4th June 1886 in Earlsheaton and baptised 1st August 1886 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Ossett. His father was Robert Milner Woodcock, born in 1850 and died in 1919. His mother was Jane Ann (nee Wilson) born 20th May 1856 in Ossett. They were married on 21st September 1878 in Ossett. Their address in 1891 was Common Mill, Low Road, Earlsheaton. In 1922 Jane Ann remarried to a Sam Wood.

He had a half-sibling Wilfred Wilson born 1876. His full siblings were; Isaac, born 1882, Karl Wilson, born 1884, and Ernest Milner, born 1891.

Joseph married Ethel Tolson (born Birstall 4th June 1883) on 26th December 1907 at St Peter's Parish Church, Birstall. They had a son Hubert, born 29th December 1908. Joseph and Ethel ran their own business, a Fish and Potato shop in Earlsheaton.

He served as Private 29896 in the 10th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) enlisting on 11th December 1916 in Bradford. He was posted to Folkestone until 25th April 1917 and then embarked to Boulogne, France on 26th April 1917. He was wounded in the field on 20th September 1917 and died in hospital at Rouen on 30th September 1917 from shrapnel injuries to the abdominal wall and right arm. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension. The cemetery extension contains 8,348 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour located in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

In Memory of

Private

J H Woodcock

29896, 10th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 30 September 1917

Remembered with Honour

St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

