



Joseph William Duncan

1892 - 1917

Joseph was born in Dewsbury in 1892. His father was Andrew Duncan, a labourer in an Iron Works born in County Roscommon, Ireland in 1868 and died in 1912. His mother was Minnie (nee Winterbottom) born in Sheffield in 1872 and died in 1925. They were married in Dewsbury in 1891.

Their other children were; John Edward, born 1894, Thomas, born 1896, died 1897, Alfred, born 1900, Thomas, born 1903, Albert, born 1905, Winifred, born 1908, Theresa, born 1910 and twins Lawrence & Lily, born 1913.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 17, George Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 94, Old Westgate, Dewsbury.

Joseph married Annie Hirst (born in Stanley near Wakefield on 18th November 1895) at Dewsbury Register Office on 27th May 1916. He was already a serving soldier, Private 227880 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and gave his civilian occupation as a woollen spinner; they had no children. Annie remarried to a William E. Slade in 1918.

He later served as Rifleman 2124 in the 11th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and was killed in action on 16th August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Tyne Cot Memorial now bears the names of 34,996 officers and men who died after 16th August 1917 in the Ypres Salient and whose graves are not known.

Joseph is also commemorated as Joseph Duncan on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Rifleman

Joseph William Duncan

2124, 11th Bn., Royal Irish Rifles who died on 16 August 1917 Age 26

Husband of Annie Slade (formerly Duncan), of 42, Wood Hill, Batley Carr, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

DUNCAN J.W.