



Joseph Machin

1886 – 1916

Joseph was born at Chesterton near Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire on 4th October 1886. His father was George Machin, a Coal Miner born in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent in 1859, and died in 1908. His mother was Annie Elizabeth (née Walker) born in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent in 1861 and died in 1933. They were married at the Wesleyan Chapel, Wolstanton on 12th November 1882. The family moved to various parts of the country to work in the coal-mining industry.

Their other children were; Eliza Ann, born in Chesterton in 1883 and died in 1909, Daniel, born in Chesterton in 1885 and died in 1885, George, born in Audley, Staffordshire in 1889, James Henry, born in New Seaham, County Durham in 1891, Charles, born in New Seaham in 1894 and was killed in action 14th September 1914, John Thomas, born in Ryhope, County Durham in 1896 and died of wounds on 27th September 1916, Septimus, born in Ryhope in 1899 and Charlotte, born in Chesterton in 1901. All the brothers served in World War 1 and a step-brother, Fred Bailey served in the Canadian Infantry.

In 1908 Annie was remarried to Joseph Bailey (born in 1863 and died in 1912); in 1913 she moved to live at 3, Cardigan Road, Thornhill Lees and later at Overton Green, Middlestown near Wakefield. In early 1916 the Dewsbury Reporter featured an article on Mrs Machin's six soldier sons, all who were described as being over six feet tall.

Joseph had formerly been a Policeman in Sunderland prior to enlistment, and before that he was a Coal Miner. He was married to Agnes Maud Everill (born in 1884 and died in 1922) on 23rd December 1906 in St. Mary's Parish Church, Tunstall, they had no children. In 1919 Agnes Maud was remarried to Edward Harrison (born in 1894 and died in 1960).

He enlisted at the outbreak of war in Newcastle-Under-Lyme serving as Gunner 17739 in the 122nd Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery and was sent to the Western Front on 8th August 1914. He was killed in action by shrapnel on 2nd November 1916 near Pozieres, during the later stages of Battle of the Somme. He is buried in Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle, Somme, France. Joseph was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Pozieres is a village some 6 kilometres north-east of Albert. Pozieres British Cemetery contains the original burials of 1916, 1917 and 1918, carried out by fighting units and field ambulances. The remaining plots were made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields immediately surrounding the cemetery, the majority of them of soldiers who died in the Autumn of 1916. There are now 2,760 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery of which 1,382 are unidentified.

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church along with his two brothers who died. For some reason his name was omitted on the original 1919 memorial and was added in 2004.

In Memory of
Gunner
J Machin

17739, 122nd Heavy Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on 02 November 1916

Remembered with Honour
Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

