



## **Joseph Rothery**

### **1889 – 1917**

Joseph was born in Dewsbury in 1889. His father was Thomas Rothery, a willeyer born in Dublin, Ireland around 1854 and died in 1922. His mother was Mary Ellen (nee Kelly) born in County Clare, Ireland around 1858 and died in 1910. They were married in 1879.

Their other children were; Joseph, born in 1879 and died in 1879, Margaret Ellen, born in 1880 and died in 1880, John, born in 1882, James, born in 1884 and died in 1884, Thomas, born in 1886 and died in 1886, Mary, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Sarah Ellen, born in 1895 and died in 1896.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 9, Back Commercial Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 29, Albion Street, Springfield, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 15, Albion Street.

Joseph was educated at St. Joseph's RC School in Batley Carr and attended the Church. He had worked as a cloth finisher but at the time of enlistment he had become a foreman rag grinder at A. Grice & Company, Ravensthorpe. He was married at St. Joseph's Church in 1913 to Ivy Cecilia Gallafent (born in Knottingley, Yorkshire in 1895 and died in Australia in 1975). They lived at 33, Eastwood's Yard, Flatts, Dewsbury and had one child, Cypriana Violet, born in 1914. Ivy was remarried at all Saints Church, Dewsbury on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1922 to Samuel Cotton (born in 1892 and died in 1969). They had a son, Cyril, born in Dewsbury in 1922; they later emigrated to New South Wales, Australia and had another son, Sydney, born in 1925.

He served as Private 41688 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1917. He was killed in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917 in the second battle of the Scarpe, during the Battle of Arras. His Company had been ordered to go over the top during the early hours of the morning and whilst he was advancing over open ground, he was killed by the bursting of a shell. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

An officer from his Regiment (Second-Lieut. P. Lewis Todd) wrote to his widow at her home in Dewsbury "*It is with great regret that I have to inform you of the fact that your husband was killed in action on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. He was in my platoon, and although small of stature was a hard and conscientious worker, and his loss will be felt by the whole company*".

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Joseph is also 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 and on the War Memorial in St. Joseph's Church, Batley Carr.

In Memory of

Private

## Joseph Rothery

41688, 10th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 23 April 1917

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

