



Joseph Henry Bray **1892 – 1917**

Joseph was born in Dewsbury on 3rd June 1892 and baptised at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 3rd July 1892. His father was Albert Bray, a Feeder born in Dewsbury in 1863 and died in 1894. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Goddard) born in Alverthorpe, Wakefield in 1863 and died in 1938. They were married in St Peter's Church on 21st March 1886.

On the 1901 census, Joseph and his mother were living at the home of her parents, Henry and Mary Goddard at Court 1, Town Street, Batley Carr.

Joseph was educated at married Warwick Road Council School and worked as a Cloth Fuller for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, he was a member of Batley Carr Working Men's Club. He was married on 6th April 1912 to Sarah Ellen Day (born in 1892 and died in 1978) at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury. They lived at 23, Back Cliffe Street, Crackenedge, Dewsbury and had two sons; Eric, born in 1912 and Frank, born in 1915 and died in November 1917. Sarah was remarried in 1921 to Arthur Rigg (born in 1897 and died in 1961); they had seven children and lived at 22, Granville Street, Dewsbury and later at 232, Low Road, Earlsheaton.

He signed up for four years with the Territorial Force of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on 15th September 1910 with the Service Number 1364 in the 4th Battalion; he gave his address as 32, Dale Street, Dewsbury. His records show that he attended yearly training and was in camp at the outbreak of war. He was mobilised on 5th August 1914 and served until 24th September 1915 when he was discharged, it was noted that he had served one year in excess of his original enlistment. He re-enlisted in the 1st/5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 242942 with a previous number 6446 and was sent to the Western Front at the end of 1916. He was killed in action in Flanders on 19th July 1917 when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas Shells on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. He was buried in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery is located 2 Kms east of Nieuwpoort on the road which leads from Nieuwpoort to Sint Joris. From June to November 1917, Commonwealth Forces held the front line in Belgium from St. Georges (now Sint Joris), near Ramscappelle, to the sea. The Cemetery started with Plot 1 in the middle of the graveyard. Most of the interments were made in July and August 1917. The burial ground was substantially enlarged after the Armistice of November 1918. At that time, the remains of the deceased from the battlefields and a number of smaller cemeteries were brought to Ramscappelle for interment. There are now 841 Commonwealth casualties of World War I who are either buried or commemorated in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery. Of those, 312 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.

In Memory of

Private

Joseph Henry Bray

242942, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 19 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

