



## **Joe Cave**

### **1891 – 1917**

Joe was born in Dewsbury on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1891 and baptised on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1892 in Christ Church, Staincliffe. His father was Joe Ellis Cave (birth name *Joseph Cave*), the Director and Salesman of a shoddy manufacturing firm born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1916. His mother was Eliza (nee Copping) born in Spalding, Lincolnshire in 1856 and died in 1933. They were married in St. Mary's Church, Whaplode near Holbeach, Lincolnshire on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1880.

Their other children were; Sarah Emily, born in 1881, William Fairfax, born in 1883, Arthur Ellis, born in 1884, Herbert Henry, born in 1887, Gertrude, born in 1889 and Marie, born in 1896.

On the 1881 Census they lived at 73, Dark Lane, Batley, in 1891 and 1901 at Brooklyn Terrace, Halifax Road, in 1911 at "Highcliff" Halifax Road, Batley and later at "Glen View" West Park Street, Dewsbury.

Joe was a single man although he was engaged to be married to Miss Bertha Hanson of Town Street, Batley Carr. He was educated at Heckmondwike Grammar School and was a popular member of the Dewsbury Junior Conservative club. In 1911 his occupation was recorded as a Building Society Clerk and his obituary in the Dewsbury Reporter of 29<sup>th</sup> September 1917 stated that he held "*a responsible position*" with the Halifax Permanent Building Society and Banking Company.

He enlisted in December 1916 into the Artists Rifles, where he entered a Cadet School at Romford in Essex. He was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and sent to the Western Front on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1917 to join the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He was badly wounded in the abdomen during the Battle of Passchendaele and died in a Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding near Poperinghe on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1917; he was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joe was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15<sup>th</sup> Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915, it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces. From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance and field ambulances (including a French ambulance) took their places. The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 24 being unidentified.

Joe 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  
Second Lieutenant  
**Joe Cave**

11th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 21 September 1917 Age 26

Son of Eliza Cave, of Highcliff, Halifax Rd., Batley, Yorks, and the late Joe Ellis Cave.

Remembered with Honour  
**Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.