Joseph Ramsden
1892 - 1917

Joseph was born in Dewsbury on 11th November 1892. His father was Thomas Walker Ramsden, a coal miner born in Thornhill in 1859 and died in 1940. His mother was Jestina (nee Woodcock) born in Ossett in 1862 and died in 1924. They were married on 14th October, 1883 at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton.

Their other children were; John Robert, born in 1883, Agnes, born in 1885, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1888, Walter, born in 1889, Joshua, born in 1891, Henry, born in 1895, George Arthur, born in 1897, Sarah Ann, born in 1898 and Fred, born in 1904. Five of the brothers served in World War 1.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records they lived on Leeds Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at Whiteley's Buildings, Battye Street, Dewsbury.

Joseph was educated at Eastborough Council School and attended Eastborough Methodist Church and Sunday school. In 1911 he was an office boy but prior to enlistment he worked as a Willyer in the woollen mill of Messrs J. France and Sons, Savile Town and was married to Edith Annie Jennings (born in 1893 and died in 1967) on 25th December 1913 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. They lived at 12, Baldwin's Buildings, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and did not have any children. Edith later lived at 7, Cullingworth Yard, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted on 19th June 1916 serving as Private 205490 in "D" Company 10th Battalion Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front in July 1917. He died at No. 11 Casualty Clearing Station in Godewaersvelde, France on 21st September, 1917 from wounds received during the Battle of Passchendaele. A letter from the sister in charge stated that he had died from shock following a bad fracture of the right leg and the amputation of the left leg. He was buried in Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Godewaersvelde is a village near the Belgian border, about 16 kilometres south-west of Ieper (in Belgium), and is half-way between Poperinge (in Belgium) and Hazebrouck (in France). The cemetery was begun in July 1917 when three casualty clearing stations were moved to Godewaersvelde. The 37th and the 41st buried in it until November 1917, the 11th until April 1918, and from April to August 1918, during the German offensive in Flanders, field ambulance and fighting units carried on the burials. Godewaersvelde British Cemetery now contains 972 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and in De Ruvigny`s Roll of Honour, 1914-1919

In Memory of

Private

Joseph Ramsden

205490, "D" Coy 10th Bn., Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) who died on 21 September 1917

Age 24

Husband of Edith Annie Ramsden, of 7, Cullingworth Yard, Leeds Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Godewaersvelde British Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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