



## **Joseph William Duncan**

### **1892 - 1917**

Joseph was born in Dewsbury in 1892. His father was Andrew Duncan, a labourer in an Iron Works born in County Roscommon, Ireland in 1868 and died in 1912. His mother was Minnie (nee Winterbottom) born in Sheffield in 1872 and died in 1925. They were married in Dewsbury in 1891.

Their other children were; John Edward, born in 1894, Thomas, born in 1896 and died in 1897, Alfred, born in 1900, Thomas, born in 1903, Albert, born in 1905, Winifred, born in 1908, Theresa, born in 1910 and twins Lawrence and Lily, born in 1913.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 17, George Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 94, Old Westgate, Dewsbury.

Joseph was married to Annie Hirst (born in Stanley near Wakefield on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1895 and died in 1968) at Dewsbury Register Office on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1916. He was already a serving soldier, Private 227880 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and gave his civilian occupation as a woollen spinner; they had no children. They lived at 43, Petona Road, Springfield, Dewsbury. Annie was remarried in Dewsbury in the second quarter of 1918 to William Edward Slade (born in Nelson, Glamorgan, Wales in 1894 and was killed in action 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918). Annie later lived at 42, Wood Hill, Batley Carr, Dewsbury. She remarried again in 1930 to Herbert Fieldhouse (born in 1887 and died in 1965). They kept the Kings Head Inn, Mirfield.

He later served as Rifleman 2124 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and was killed in action on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

Joseph is also commemorated as Joseph Duncan on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of  
Rifleman

## Joseph William Duncan

2124, 11th Bn., Royal Irish Rifles who died on 16 August 1917 Age 26

Husband of Annie Slade (formerly Duncan), of 42, Wood Hill, Batley Carr, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

DUNCAN J. W.