



## **Joseph Hagar**

### **1898 - 1917**

Joseph was born in Dewsbury on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1898. His father was John Hagar, (birth name recorded as *Agger*) a labourer born in St. Helens, Lancashire in 1869 and died in 1914. His mother was Ellen (nee Morris) born in Selby in 1872 and died in 1912. They were married in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1892.

Their other children were; John Thomas, born in 1892 and died in 1893, Mary, born in 1895, Ellen, born in 1901, Annie, born in 1902, Catherine, born in 1906 and died in 1909 and Agnes, born in 1910 and died in 1911.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 4, Crossland's Yard, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 75, Middle Road, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Joseph was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Church. He worked at Savile Town Laundry and previously for Messrs Kilner Brothers Glass Bottle Works in Thornhill Lees and Messrs Joshua Ellis and Company's mill in Batley Carr.

He had tried to enlist in 1914 when aged only 16 but the Army refused to take him, until a year later when he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 202731 and was sent to the Western Front in June 1916. He was wounded during the Battle of Passchendaele and died on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1917 in a Field Hospital near Coxyde, on the Belgian coast. He was buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In June 1917, Commonwealth forces relieved French forces on 6 kilometres of front line from the sea to a point south of Nieupoort (now Nieuwpoort), and held this sector for six months. Coxyde (now Koksijde) was about 10 kilometres behind the front line. The village was used for rest billets and was occasionally shelled, but the cemetery, which had been started by French troops, was found to be reasonably safe. It became the most important of the Commonwealth cemeteries on the Belgian coast and was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line. The cemetery now contains 1,507 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 on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St Paulinus Church.

In Memory of  
Private  
**J Hagar**

202731, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 02 October 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Coxyde Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

