



Joseph Henry Woodcock

1886 - 1917

Joseph was born in Earlsheaton on 4th June 1886 and baptised 1st August 1886 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Ossett. His father was Robert Milner Woodcock, born in Dewsbury in 1850 and died in 1919. His mother was Jane Ann (nee Wilson) born in Ossett in 1856 and died in 1947. They were married on 21st September 1878 at Holy Trinity Church, Ossett.

Their other children were; Isaac, born in 1882, Karl Wilson, born in 1884, and Ernest Milner, born in 1891. Ann had a son; Wilfred Wilson, born in 1876.

In 1891 and 1901 they lived at Common Mill, Low Road, Earlsheaton and in 1911 at Preston's Buildings, Earlsheaton.

Jane Ann was remarried in 1922 to Sam Wood (born in 1849 and died in 1923).

Joseph was married on 26th December 1907 at St Peter's Parish Church, Birstall to Ethel Tolson (born in Birkenshaw in 1886 and died in 1957). They had a son, Hubert, born 29th December 1908. Joseph and Ethel ran their own business, a Fish and Potato shop in Earlsheaton. In 1911 they lived at 132, Preston's Buildings, Low Road, Earlsheaton at the home of his wife's grandmother, Eliza Willey Tolson. Ethel was remarried in 1920 to Harry Mason (born in 1889 and died in 1960). They lived at Bradford Road, Birkenshaw and later at 3, Red Hill Cottages, Tadcaster Road, Kippax near Leeds.

He enlisted in Bradford on 11th December 1916 serving as Private 29896 in the 10th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). He was posted to Folkestone until 25th April 1917 and then was sent to the Western Front on 26th April 1917. He was wounded in action on 20th September 1917 and died in hospital at Rouen on 30th September 1917 from shrapnel injuries to the abdominal wall and right arm. He was buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. St. Sever Cemetery contains 3,082 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. The cemetery extension contains 8,348 Commonwealth burials of the First World War (ten of them unidentified).

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour located in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

In Memory of

Private

J H Woodcock

29896, 10th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 30 September 1917

Remembered with Honour

St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

