



Joseph William Stradling

1895-1918

Joseph was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was Tom Stradling, a Coal Miner born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1948. His mother was Emma (nee Gill) born in Dewsbury in 1875 and died in 1927. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 6th December 1893.

Their other children were; Annie, born in 1894, Alice, born in 1898 and died in 1906, John, born in 1900, Arthur, born in 1904 and Alfred, born in 1910.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury Moor and in 1911 at 47, Back Gladstone Street, Dewsbury.

Joseph was a single man who worked as a Hurrier below ground in a coal mine.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 25857 and was later transferred to the 17th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment, Service Number 43514, then the Labour Corps, Service Number 115317 and finally the 13th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment serving as Private 33201. He was killed in action near Steenwerck in Northern France on 8th September 1918 and was buried in the field. His remains were later reburied in Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery, Steenwerck, Nord, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Steenwerck is a village in the Department of the Nord, on the south-west side of the Armentieres to Bailleul road. It remained untouched for much of the First World War, but on 10th April 1918 it was captured during the German advance and remained in their hands until the beginning of October. The original cemetery was made by fighting units and field ambulances in April and October 1918, and contained 55 graves. It was increased after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Steenwerck, Nieppe and Armentieres. Among them were 116 Commonwealth graves from Steenwerck German Cemetery, a large burial ground on the Steenwerck-Trois Arbres road. Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery contains 553 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 108 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 12 casualties known to be buried among them, and to three soldiers buried in the cemetery in April 1918 whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. Eight other special memorials commemorate casualties known to have been buried in Steenwerck German Cemetery whose graves could not be found.

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and as *Joseph Wm. Stradling* in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

J W Stradling

33201, 13th Bn., East Lancashire Regiment who died on 08 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery, Steenwerck



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the “In Memory” Website of Pierre Vandervelden.