



Joseph Smith

1889-1918

Joseph was born in Dewsbury in 1889. His father was John Smith, a Coal Miner born around 1853. His mother was Peace (nee Hall) born in 1857 and died in 1932. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 25th May 1874.

Their other children were; John William, born in 1875, Eliza, born in 1876 and died in 1877, Isaac, born in 1880, Mary, born in 1885, Edward, born in 1887, Fred, born in 1888 and died in 1888, Frank, born in 1891 and died in 1892, Lucy, born in 1893, Nellie, born in 1894 and died in 1894 and William Henry, born in 1897. The Dewsbury District News said that Joseph was one of four soldier brothers who served in World War 1.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Bottoms, Walkley Lane, Heckmondwike and in 1911 at 14, Boundary Road, Dewsbury Moor. No records can be found for 1891 and 1901.

Joseph was a single man who was employed as a Beer Bottler at the Heckmondwike Springwell Brewery.

He enlisted in November 1915 into the Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 24893 and was sent to the Western Front on 23rd June 1916 being immediately transferred into the West Yorkshire Regiment, Service Number 43493; he also had a spell in the Labour Corps, Service Number 408888. He came home on leave in August 1917 and on his return to the front he was transferred into the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers serving as Private 60506. He was deployed as a Sniper and was killed in action in Flanders on 8th August 1918 during the First Day of the Allied Advance to Victory (the 100 Days Offensive) and was buried in Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension, Bailleul, Nord, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Outtersteene is a village about 5 kilometres south-west of Bailleul. It was captured by the III Corps on 13th October 1914 but no Commonwealth burials took place there for nearly three years. In August 1917, during the Battle of Passchendaele, the 2nd, 53rd and 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Outtersteene, and the first and last of these remained until March 1918. The hamlet was captured by the Germans on 12th April 1918, and retaken by the 9th, 29th and 31st Divisions, with the ridge beyond it, on 18th and 19th August. After the Armistice, over 900 graves of 1914 and 1918 were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and certain small cemeteries. Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension now contains 1,393 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. 499 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 14 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

J Smith

60506, 23rd Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 08 August 1918

Remembered with Honour

Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension, Bailleul



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



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.