



Joseph Haigh 1898-1918

Joseph was born in Whitley on 16th July 1898. His father was William Haigh, a Coal Miner and later a Pit Deputy born in Whitley in 1850 and died in 1902. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Walker) born in Flockton near Huddersfield in 1853 and died in 1926. They were married in 1876.

Their other children who could be traced were; Ann, born in 1877 and died in 1877, Thomas, born in 1878 and died in 1880, Edith, born in 1880, Walker, born in 1882, Christopher, born in 1885, Harriet Jane, born in 1887, Eleanor, born in 1889, Albert, born in 1890 and died in 1891, Alice, born in 1892 and Ada, born in 1894. On the 1911 Census they declare 13 children born to the marriage, 8 of whom survived and 5 who had died.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Middle Road, Whitley Lower, in 1901 the entry simply reads "Whitley" and in 1911 as "Whitley near Dewsbury".

Joseph was a single man who was educated at Whitley Lower Church of England School and was a former chorister at Whitley Church. He was employed as a Night Piecer by Messrs Rawdon, Briggs and Company, Textile Manufacturers, Calder Road, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in April 1917 serving as Private 77849 in the 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was killed in action in France on 31st March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Pozieres Memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8th August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died between 21st March to 7th August 1918.

Joseph is also 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

Joseph Haigh

77849, 15th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 31 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Poizieres Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

