



Joseph Roche 1890-1918

Joseph was born at Senior Street, Westtown, Dewsbury on 22nd June 1890. His father was Edward Roche, a fish hawker and later a night watchman born in East Bengal, India around 1854 and died in 1915. His mother was Ruth (nee Daltry, sometimes Daughtery) born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1908. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 10th October 1887.

Their other children were; John, born in 1889 and died in 1899, Cecilia, born in 1891 and died in 1893 and Gertrude, born in 1893.

Ruth had two children; Alice Tolson born in 1878 and Emma Jane Daltry (registered as *Daughtery*) born in 1883. On the 1881 Census she is recorded as living in Whitley Street, Dewsbury as the wife of a William Tolson, age 28 whose place of birth is given as Germany; no marriage record has been found.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 2, Corrie Fold, Westtown, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Hemingway's Yard, Westtown and in 1911 at 18, Asylum Road, Westtown.

Joseph attended St. Paulinus School and Church and worked at the paper mills of Walter Walker, Watergate Mills, Dewsbury. He was married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 16th January 1916 to a widow, Lilian Fisher nee Nelson (born in 1891 and died in 1944). They lived at 47, Albion Street, Ravensthorpe and did not have any children. Lilian was previously married on 18th February 1911 at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown to George Fisher (born in 1892 and died in November 1912); they had two sons; James, born in 1911 and George, born in 1913 and died in 1915. Lilian married again on 8th March 1919 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe to Hinchcliffe Lockwood (born in 1882 and died in 1919). Lilian had a daughter; Alice Lockwood, born in 1925. She married for a fourth time on 2nd August 1930 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Rawdon near Leeds to Allen Sharpe (born in 1880 and died in 1942) they had a son; Cecil, born in 1931.

He enlisted in February 1915 serving as Private 27488 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed in action in France on 11th August 1918; according to his obituary in the Dewsbury District News on 21st September 1918 he was attached to the Royal Engineers. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the straight main road from Arras to Cambrai. The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road. It bears the names of over 9,000 men of the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; who fell in the period from 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing.

Joseph is also 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

Joseph Roche

27488, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 11 August 1918 Age 29

Husband of Lillian Lockwood (formerly Roche), of 47, Albion St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

