



Joseph Bailey 1897 – 1915

Joseph was born in Chidswell, Dewsbury on 23rd May 1897 and baptised at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 6th June 1897. His father was Charles Henry Bailey, a Coal Miner born in Chidswell in 1856 and died in 1915. His mother was Agnes (nee Leyburn/Labrun/Labron) born in Soothill, Batley in 1862 and died in 1949. They were married on 27th December 1884 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Arthur, born in 1885, Emma, born in 1889, Willie, born in 1892 and Annie, born in 1894.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived in Chidswell, Soothill Upper and in 1911 at 12, Owl Lane Terrace, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury.

Joseph was a single man who worked as a Coal Miner; he attended St. Paul's Church and the Sunday school.

He attested on 26th December 1914 into the 1st/5th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) serving as Private 3628, and was sent to the Western Front on 29th June 1915. He was killed in action on 11th November 1915, being fatally shot by rifle fire as he and his comrades were leaving the trenches; he was buried in Talana Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joseph was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His mother received a letter from Lt. Arthur Broadbent telling of the circumstances of his death and that; *"He was one of the best and most popular lads in the platoon, and I am very sorry to have lost him. Apart from him being such a good sort, his skill as a trimmer was a great help to me"*. Two other comrades; Private George L. Speight and Private Willie Newsome also sent their condolences.

Talana Farm was one of a group of farm houses named by the army from episodes of the South African war. From Ieper (Ypres) the Cemetery is located on the road in the direction of Boezinge. The cemetery was begun by French troops in April 1915, then taken over by the 1st Rifle Brigade and 1st Somerset Light Infantry in June 1915, and was used by fighting units until March 1918. There are now 529 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 14 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to six casualties whose graves in the cemetery could not be located and ten who are identified as a group, but not individually. It is probable that the cemetery contained other graves later destroyed by shell fire.

Joseph is 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 Earlsheaton Park and on the War Memorial in St Paul's Churchyard, Hanging Heaton. He is also commemorated on the Oak Memorial Board inside St Paul's, and on the Crawshaw and Warburton Mining Company Memorial Board, located in the inner porch at St Paul's and in the book: 'The Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' compiled by The Rev W.E. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Associate of King's College University of London. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

In Memory of
Private
J Bailey

3628, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 11 November 1915

Remembered with Honour
Talana Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

