



Joe Tinker

1871 – 1915

Joe was born in Thornhill, Dewsbury in 1871. His father was also Joe Tinker, a Coal Hower born in Huddersfield in 1836 and died in 1897. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Hodgson), born in Mirfield in 1836 and died in 1894. They were married in Kirkheaton Methodist Church on 6th March 1859.

Their other children were; William, born in 1860 and died in 1897, Mary, born in 1863 and died in 1882, Martha, born in 1867 and Jane Ann, born in 1873.

On the 1871 Census the family lived in Whitley and in 1881 and 1891 at 60, Briestfield Road, Dewsbury.

Joe worked as a Coal Hower and was married to Elizabeth Speight (born in Thornhill in 1871 and died in 1935) on 13th December 1902 at St. Thomas's Church, Purston cum South Featherstone. In 1911 the family lived at 60, Featherstone Square, Pontefract. They declare two children born to the marriage, one who was still alive; Irene, born in 1905. No other birth of another child can be found.

On 10th October 1894 he enlisted as Private 4749 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was discharged at his own request on 26th June 1896. On 22nd January 1898 he enlisted at Pontefract as Private 567/3 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but was discharged for disciplinary offences on 28th July that same year. After the outbreak of war he enlisted at Pontefract and served as Private 3/3368 in the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 19th January 1915. He was killed in action at Hill 60 near Ypres on 18th April 1915 and was buried in the field. On 19th May 1926 his remains were reburied in Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joe was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery is located 6 Kms south of Ypres. The "Oosttaverne Line" was a German work running northward from the River Lys to the Comines Canal, passing just east of Oosttaverne. It was captured on 7th June 1917, the first day of the Battle of Messines, the village and the wood being taken by the 19th (Western) and 11th Divisions. Two cemeteries, No.1 and No.2, were then made on the present site and used until September 1917. They are contained in Plots I, II, and III of the present cemetery, which was completed after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields (including many from Hill 60) and from a number of smaller cemeteries. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery contains 1,119 First World War burials, 783 of which are unidentified.

Joe 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 Tinker

3/3386, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 18 April 1915

Remembered with Honour
Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.