



Joshua Bailey

1889-1918

Joshua was born in Dewsbury in 1889. His father was William Bailey, a Clothier and later a Fruitier and Fishmonger born in Dewsbury in 1849 and died in 1895. His mother was Hannah (nee Earnshaw) born in Cartworth, Holmfirth in 1847 and died in 1903. They were married on 8th October 1870 at All Saints Church, Batley.

Their other children were; Minnie, born in 1873, Matthew Earnshaw, born in 1876, Florence, born in 1878, Thewlis, born in 1880, Thomas, born in 1882, Sarah Ann, born in 1884 and William, born in 1886.

On the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 26, Mill Road, Batley Carr.

On the 1911 Census, Joshua is working as a General Carrier with his brothers Thewlis and Thomas; they are still living at 26, Mill Road with their sisters Sarah Ann and Minnie (now the wife of Matthew Brinley, a Greengrocer who is shown as the head of the house). He was married on 11th October 1911 to Flora Robinson (born in Batley in 1888 and died in 1961) at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Upper Road, Batley Carr; they had a son, Ernest, born in 1915 and died in 1919. Their address in 1916 was Marsland Terrace, Wakefield where he was Manager of the Wakefield branch of the Dewsbury and Batley Ice Company. Flora later moved to live at 1a, Carr Street, Batley Carr.

He enlisted in 1915 as a Reservist and was called up in April 1916 into the Army Service Corps (the "Royal" prefix was awarded 27th November 1918) serving as Private M/283980; his regimental number has the prefix "M", showing that he was working with mechanical transport. His Army Service Record shows that in January 1917 he successfully completed a workshop test qualifying him as a lorry driver. He was sent to the Western Front on 21st March 1917 attached to "K" Anti Aircraft Battery; when the Armistice was signed, his employees requested his release which was granted. His demobilisation was due to take place on December 21st but on the 19th he was taken ill with influenza and pneumonia (Spanish Flu) and died in a Casualty Clearing Station at Valenciennes, France on 20th December 1918 and was buried in Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Joshua was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In November and December 1918, the 2nd, 57th, 4th Canadian and 32nd Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Valenciennes and the last of them did not leave until October 1919. Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery contains 885 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 37 of the burials are unidentified.

Joshua 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 Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Batley War Memorial and on the Hanging Heaton War Memorial in St. Paul's Churchyard.

In Memory of
Private
J Bailey

M/283980, Royal Army Service Corps who died on 20 December 1918 Age 29

Husband of Flora Bailey, of 1A, Carr St., Batley Carr, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memory" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.