



Joseph Longstaff 1896 – 1916

Joseph was born in Dewsbury in 1896; his surname was registered as *Longstaffe*. His father was William Longstaff, a Carpet Weaver and sometime milk salesman born in Liversedge in 1867 and died in 1951. His mother was Sarah (née Pitt) born in Heckmondwike in 1867 and died in 1953. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 28th May 1887.

Their other children were; Vernon*, born in Batley in 1887, Florrie*, born in Heckmondwike in 1889, William Lister, born in Batley in 1892, Annie Jane, born in Halifax in 1894, Rose Ann*, born in Wakefield in 1899, John*, born in Wakefield in 1901, Elsie, born in Dewsbury in 1904, Walter*, born in Dewsbury in 1909 and Ivy*, born in Dewsbury in 1912. (*surname registered as *Longstaffe*)

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Hollinbank Lane, Heckmondwike, in 1901 at 1, Farrar's Yard, Wakefield, and in 1911 at 36, Whitley Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury. Interestingly, the 1911 census document had to be completed by the head of the family where possible and William spells the family name as *Longstaffe*.

Joseph was a single man who in 1911 was working as a Piecer in a blanket mill but his occupation upon enlistment was a Willeyer for Mr. George Ellis, woollen manufacturer, Savile Town. He was connected to Moorlands Wesleyan Church.

He attested on 15th November 1915 joining the 3rd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 26153 but on 7th June 1916 he was transferred into the 1st/7th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) serving as Private 5467 and was sent to the Western Front on 16th June 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd July 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

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 as *Joseph Longstaffe* on the Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

Joseph Longstaff

5467, 1st/7th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 July 1916 Age 19

Son of William and Sarah Longstaff, of 36, Whitley St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

LONGSTAFF J.