



Joseph Reynolds 1892 – 1915

Joseph was born in Middleton, Lancashire in 1892. His father was Anthony Reynolds, born in Stockport, Cheshire in 1864. He served in the Boer War in South Africa and died of sickness at Springfontein, Pretoria on 7th May 1901, serving as Private 2588 in the 4th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment. His mother was Annie Langtry (nee Jones), born *Hannah Langtree* in Blackburn, Lancashire in 1865 and died in 1957. They were married in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Tatton Street, Stockport, Cheshire on 22nd June 1890.

Their other children were; John James, born in 1891 and served in World War 1, Sarah Ann, born in 1895, Alfred, born in 1897 and Annie, born in 1899.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 51, Park Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

On the 1911 Census Annie is recorded as being married for 9 years and 7 months to Charles Dyson (born in 1867 and died in 1938) and living at 48, Dale Street, Batley; they have two children, Elsie Dyson, born in 1906 and Willie Dyson, born in 1910. Joseph and his younger siblings are living with them. When the news of his death was published on 8th January 1916, his mother's address was given as 58, Reform Street, Westborough, Dewsbury. Annie and Charles Dyson did not marry until 12th November 1918 at Ashton-under-Lyne Register Office.

Joseph was a single man who was attached to St. John's Church, Dewsbury Moor; he worked as a Coal Miner for Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton Limited at Shaw Cross Colliery.

He enlisted in Batley in November 1914, having previously joined the Territorials and served as Private 3409 in the 4th Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry; he was sent to the Western Front on 9th July 1915 and was later wounded and hospitalised in France where he was visited by his brother John who was serving in the 1st/4th K.O.Y.L.I. He was gassed in Flanders in the first German phosgene attack on December 19th 1915, near Wietje on the Ypres battlefield and died in the 1st/2nd West Riding Field Ambulance, near Ypres on 20th December 1915. He was buried in a joint grave in Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Joseph was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ferme-Olivier Cemetery is located 7 kilometres north west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. The cemetery was used continuously between 9th June 1915 and 5th August 1917, with the 62nd, 16th, 9th, 11th, 129th and 130th Field Ambulances successively having dressing stations close by. Throughout this period, the village was just within range of the German artillery. The cemetery contains 408 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 6 of which are unidentified.

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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and as *Joe Reynolds* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the Memorial Plaque in the porch of St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton to former employees of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton who gave their lives in the Great War and on the Ossett War Memorial.

In Memory of
Private
J Reynolds

3409, 4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 December 1915

Remembered with Honour
Ferne-Olivier Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

