

Joe was born in Horbury in 1891. His father was George Haigh, a Willyer born in Horbury in 1853 and died in 1918. His mother was Ellen (née Naylor) born in Fordham, Essex in 1851 and died in 1911. They were married at St. Michael's Church, Wakefield on 13th August 1877.

Their other children were; George Henry (Harry), born in 1878, Emily, born in 1880, Arthur, born in 1882, Willie, born in 1885 and died in 1886, Samuel Naylor, born in 1887 and William Henry, born in 1888.

Ellen had a son; Alfred Pearce Naylor, born in 1875.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Wakefield Road, Horbury, in 1891 at Queen Street, Horbury, in 1901 at Wakefield Road, Horbury and in 1911 at 7, Club Houses, Horbury.

Joe worked as a cloth roller and was married on 17th August 1912 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton to Emma Jessop (born in 1891 and died in 1969) they had two children; George, born in 1912 and Norman, born in 1915. They lived at 86, Hardy Street, Crackenedge, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Wakefield in 1916 into the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 5037. He was badly wounded on 20th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette and died the same day in the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station at Puchevillers. He was buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France. Joe was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Puchevillers is a village about 19 kilometres north-east of Amiens. In June 1916, just before the opening of the Battles of the Somme, the 3rd and 44th Casualty Clearing Stations came to the village and burials were made by those hospitals before the end of March 1917. The graves of men who died in the German advance in 1918 were buried by the 49th Clearing Station in March 1918 or by the 48th Labour Group in August. Puchevillers British Cemetery contains 1,763 First World War burials.

Joe is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.



