



## **Joseph Brearley**

### **1888 -1916**

Joseph was born in Dewsbury in 1888. His mother was Esther Brearley, born in Hanging Heaton in 1873 and died in 1949.

On the 1891 Census he is living with his widowed grandmother Emma Brearley, her daughter Esther and son James (born in 1876) at 25, Back Lawson Street, Dewsbury. In 1901 Joseph and his grandmother are living at the home of his uncle James, his wife Sarah Ann and their four children. In 1911 his mother Esther is living with Clement Robinson Priestley, a canal boatman born in Brighouse in 1879 and died in 1944, he served in World War 1. They had three children; Jack Brearley, born in 1904, Emma Brearley, born in 1906 and Tom Brearley, born in 1908. Esther and Clement Priestley were married in 1935.

Joseph was married to Nora Davey (born in Ossett in 1889 and died in 1967) on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1908 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. He was recorded as a miner on his marriage certificate but had become a mechanic's labourer on the 1911 Census when he was living at 18, Wood Street with his wife and sons John Brearley Davey, born in 1908 and Joseph, born in 1910 and died in 1912.

Nora was remarried on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton to John Marsden (born in 1867 and died in 1946), they had a daughter, Ida, born in 1920; they lived at 30, Back Battye Street, Dewsbury and later at 99, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. Nora remarried again in 1947 to Arthur Hall (born in 1885 and died in 1961).

He enlisted at the declaration of war and was sent to the Western Front on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1914 serving as Private 3/1511 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was Mentioned in Dispatches, being Gazetted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915 and was killed in action in the final stages of the Battle of the Somme on 18<sup>th</sup> November 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 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal with the Spray of Oak Leaves Clasp for his M.I.D.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 300 Commonwealth and 300 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 on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

## Joseph Brearley

Mentioned in Despatches

3/1511, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 18 November 1916 Age 28

Husband of Norah Marsden (formerly Brearley), of 30 Back, Battye St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

