



Joseph Hirst 1892-1918

Joseph was born in Dewsbury on 5th September 1892 and baptised on 5th October 1892 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. His father was Walter Hirst, a blanket warehouseman born in Dewsbury in 1859 and died in 1928. His mother was Alice (nee Broadhead, formerly Lee) born in Dewsbury in 1859 and died in 1948. They were married on 2nd January 1892 at St. John's Church. Joseph was their only child.

On the 1910 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 61, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury Moor.

Alice was previously married on 26th July 1879 to Joseph Lee (born in Holmfirth in 1859 and died in 1890), they had three children who all died in infancy; Herbert, born in 1879 and died in 1879, Annie, born in 1881 and died in 1882 and Fred, born in 1890 and died in 1890.

Joseph was a single man who attended Dewsbury Moor Council School and Zion Primitive School, Moor End Lane; he worked as a Draper's Assistant and later for Messrs William Parker, Shoddy Manufacturers.

He enlisted in February 1916 at Heckmondwike into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 27506 and was later transferred to the 5th/6th Battalion Royal Scots serving as Private 335507. He was killed in action near Blairville, France on 27th May 1918 during the later stages of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). He was buried in Blairville Orchard British Cemetery but in 1923 all the burials there were moved to Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas-de-Calais, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery contains over 7,650 burials of the First World War, over half of which remain unidentified.

An Officer in his Regiment wrote to his Sweetheart, Miss Mary Hirst (no relation) of 97, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury Moor, telling that he was killed instantaneously by a shellburst in the trenches at 3am, adding that *"he was one of the best men in the company, and we all regret his loss very much"*.

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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the Memorial Plaque in Dewsbury Spiritualist Church.

He is one of 7 men whose names appear twice on the Roll of Honour and on the Cenotaph.

Hirst Joseph.	61 Moor End Lane, Dewsbury Moor.	Pte. 335507- 5 th Royal Scots.	Killed. Blairville near Arras.
Hirst Joseph.		KOYLI.	27-5-18

In Memory of

Private

Joseph Hirst

335507, 5th/6th Bn., Royal Scots who died on 27 May 1918 Age 25

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hirst, of 61, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of "Michel", a member of the Great War Forum.