



Joseph Harris

1895-1918

Joseph was born in Lye, Stourbridge, Worcestershire in 1895. His father was also Joseph Harris, a Retort Builder born in Lye in 1864 and died in 1914. His mother was Lizzie (nee Whitehouse) born in Old Swinford, Worcestershire in 1867 and died in 1947. They were married in 1888.

Their other children were; Elsie, born in Old Swinford in 1888, Frances, born in Old Swinford in 1889, Harry, born in Old Swinford in 1892 and died of sickness in Mesopotamia on 20th July 1916, Frederick (I), born in Lye in 1893 and died in 1894, Frederick (II), born in Lye in 1897 and died in 1898, Herbert, born in Lye in 1900, Ernest, born in Ravensthorpe in 1901 and Richard, born in Ravensthorpe in 1903.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Palace Row, Heath Lane, Old Swinford, in 1901 at 1, Albion Street Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at Huddersfield Road Ravensthorpe and later at 20, Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe.

Joseph was a single man who worked as a coal miner at Ingham's Colliery, Thornhill Lees and later as a warehouseman at Messrs Doble and Son, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in Heckmondwike in January 1916 joining the Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 27613; he later transferred to the 10th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment serving as Private 51118. In July 1916 he received shrapnel wounds in his back which necessitated a return home to recuperate; in November 1917 he was again sent home suffering from trench feet and did not return to the front until the end of June 1918. He was killed in action in Flanders on 4th September 1918, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Ploegsteert Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension, which is located 12.5 Kms south of Ypres (now Ieper). The memorial commemorates the 11,349 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who have no known grave and died in the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood.

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 Ravensthorpe Memorial in St. Saviour's Church and on the War Memorial in Ravensthorpe United Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

Joseph Harris

51118, 10th Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 04 September 1918 Age 23

Son of Joseph and Lizzie Harris, of 20, Commercial St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

