



## Joseph (Joe) Brooke 1895-1918

Joe was born in Wakefield in 1895; his birth surname is recorded as *Brook*. His father was Richard Brooke, a Glass Bottle Maker born in Dewsbury in 1859 and died in 1935. His mother was Alice (nee Fairbank) born in Barkisland near Halifax in 1862 and died in 1943. They were married in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1885.

Their other children were; Ruth Ann, born in Thornhill Lees in 1886, Lucy, born in Conisbrough, Yorkshire in 1888, Frank, born in Conisbrough in 1890, Edith Annie, born in Conisbrough in 1892, Elsie\*, born in Thornhill Lees in 1894 and died in 1895, Albert Edward, born in Thornhill Lees in 1898 and served in World War 1, Alice\*, born in Thornhill Lees in 1900 and died in 1901, Richard\*, born in Thornhill Lees in 1902 and died in 1903, Norman\*, born in Thornhill Lees in 1904 and died in 1905. Some birth records spell the surname as *Brook* \*.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 4, Melbourne View, Conisbrough, in 1901 and 1911 at Navigation Street, Thornhill Lees and later at 7, Thornton Road, Thornhill Lees.

Joe was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and attended the Wesleyan Methodist Church and Sunday school. He was employed at Messrs Kilner Brothers Glass Bottle Works.

He enlisted in August 1915 serving as Private 201710 Joseph Brooke in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers; his previous Service Numbers were 21316, & 9349. He was wounded in France in July 1916 and in the December of that same year, he was sent out to Egypt. He returned to the Western Front in March 1918 and was killed in action in France on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Joe was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. Here, at the end of May 1918 the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. The Allied counter attack drove back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.

Joe is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Joe Brook* on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury

In Memory of

Private

## Joseph Brooke

201710, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 29 July 1918 Age 22

Son of Richard and Alice Brooke, of 7, Thornton Rd., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Soissons Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

BROOKE J.