



## **Joseph Tierney**

### **1896 - 1916**

Joseph was born in Dewsbury on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1896 and was baptised two days later on 26<sup>th</sup> April at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church. His mother was Ellen Tierney, born in Halifax in 1871 and died in 1939. Her birth name was registered as *Tiernan*.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records they lived at 63, High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Joseph was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and was a regular churchgoer at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church. He was employed by Newsome and Spedding, blanket manufacturers and was a member of the Irish National League Club and played for Dewsbury Celtic Football Club and was recognised as a talented player. He was a member of the successful team that won the Yorkshire County Intermediate FC Cup and the Reporter's Cup during the season of 1914-15.

He enlisted in August 1915 serving as Private 16576 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme near Ginchy, his official date of death being recorded as 16<sup>th</sup> September 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 British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The War Diary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards records the following: On 15<sup>th</sup> September, at 6:30am the Battalion advanced to the assault on Ginchy. On emerging from Ginchy Wood the line came under very heavy machine gun and rifle fire, despite our artillery barrage casualties were very heavy. Two lines of trenches were captured and left and the original objective-1000-2000 yards were taken without great opposition at 7:15am. Approximate casualties were given as 15 Officers and 440 Other Ranks, killed, wounded and missing.

His mother did not receive confirmation of his death until January 1917.

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 in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

**Joseph Tierney**

16576, 2nd Bn., Coldstream Guards who died on 16 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

TIERNEY J.