



Joseph Laycock

1894-1918

Joseph was born in Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire on 18th September 1894. His father was Richard Henry Laycock, a Railway Signal Fitter born in Mirfield in 1866 and died in 1946. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Peace) born in Mirfield in 1864 and died in 1942. They were married in St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 18th May 1890.

Their other children were; Fred, born in Mirfield in 1890 and died in 1906, Alice, born in Ravensthorpe in 1892, Edith born in Pontefract in 1897, Doris, born in Pontefract in 1899 and died in 1899 and Clifford, born in Pontefract in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1901 at Mill Dam, Pontefract, in 1911 at Field Street, Ravensthorpe and later at Eastfield Road, Northorpe, Mirfield.

Joseph was a single man who attended Ravensthorpe Wesleyan Chapel Sunday school and worked as a "Twister In" at the mill of Messrs G and J Stubley, Batley.

He volunteered under the name *Joe Laycock* in August 1914 into the 6th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 15420. He arrived in France on 21st May 1915 and was seriously wounded at Hooze near Ypres in early August of that year; one of his letters refers to the enemy's use of "liquid fire" which was used by them on the 30th July. After recovering from his wounds in England he was probably classified as unfit for service on the Western Front but would have been passed fit for garrison duty overseas; he was sent to India in September 1916 as part of the 1st (Garrison) Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment Service Number 21388. In September 1917 he was sent to Mesopotamia with the 2nd (Garrison) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers serving as Private 53724. He died of sickness in Baghdad on 15th September 1918 and was buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Joseph was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery was begun in April 1917 and has been greatly enlarged since the end of the First World War by graves brought in from other burial grounds in Baghdad and northern Iraq, and from battlefields and cemeteries in Anatolia where Commonwealth prisoners of war were buried by the Turks. At present, 4,160 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War are commemorated by name in the cemetery, 273 Special Memorials represent men who were buried as prisoners of war in recorded graves which could not be found. Unidentified burials from this period number 2,729.

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

In Memory of

Private

J Laycock

53724, 2nd Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 15 September 1918 Age 23

Son of Richard and Elizabeth Laycock, of Eastfield Rd., Northorpe, Mirfield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph taken by Hussam Saad
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