Joseph Miller Crawshaw



Rank: - Private

Number: - 62429

Regiment: - Royal Defence Corps (Formerly KOYLI and Labour Corps) 164 Coy

Died in Great Britain of chronic bronchitis: - (note, 14 Feb 1920 is burial date)

Cemetery: - Dewsbury, Yorkshire K “U”774

Family Details

Joseph Miller was born in Batley in c.1884 the son of John and Mary Ann Crawshaw (nee Templeton). The couple had married at Dewsbury Parish Church on 10th January 1876. Charlotte was born in 1877 followed by Henry 1879, Frank 1881-, Joseph Miller, John Naylor 1886, Fred 1894,

In 1881 the family was living in King Street, Batley and John was a card cleaner. Before 1891 the family had moved to 15, Chapel Street, Batley Carr and John had become a weaver. In 1901 the family was still at the same address and John was working as a rag grinder whilst Joseph had started working as a miner. In 1911 John, Mary Ann, John jnr, Fred and a granddaughter were living in a 2 roomed home at 1, Chapel Street, Batley.

Joseph married Mary Breheney on 30th May 1903 at Batley Carr, Holy Trinity Church and John Henry (Harry) was born in April 1905 followed by Herbert in January 1907 who only lived a few weeks, Richard in May 1908, Gladys in 1910, Ernest 1913, Joseph 1915 and Harry 1916.

In 1911 the family was living in a two roomed home at 31, Back Bright Street, Dewsbury and Joseph was working as a rag puller.

Service Details

Joseph enlisted on the 4th January 1915 and discharged 9th March 1918 due to illness.

From the 8th September 1916-4th December 1916 he was with the 1/5th KOYLI 5th December 1916- 4th February 1917 at Base and from 10th June 1917 – 29th July 1917 1/5th KOYLI. He was in hospital in Etaples in July 1917.

He was discharged on the 9th March 1918 and on his discharge papers he is described as being 35 years old with a fair complexion, grey eyes, dark brown hair with tattoo marks on both arms, his trade was a mill hand, living at 31, Back Bright Street, Dewsbury. He was physically unfit for active service due to chronic bronchitis which was due to exposure in the Arras section of France in November 1916. He was in hospital in France and invalided home in February 1917 and although sent back to France he was hardly on duty because he was in eight hospitals due to his constant coughing.

His wife, Mary, died in late October 1918 and was buried at Dewsbury Cemetery on November 2nd aged 33 years. It is possible that he went stay and have the help of his parents with his children because when he died in 1920 the address given was that of his parents, 1, Chapel Street, Batley Carr.

He was awarded the Silver War Badge, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Joseph Miller is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group