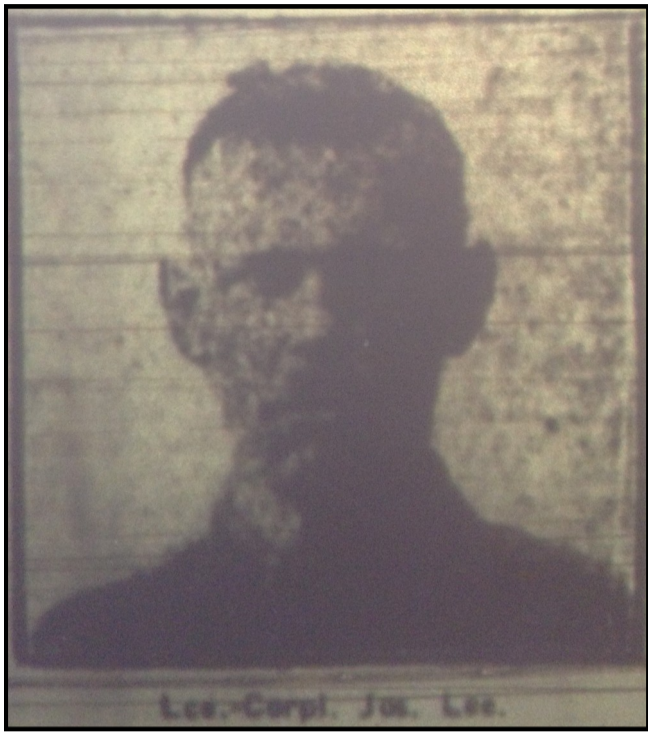


Lance Corporal Joseph LEE



The son of Samuel and Eliza Lee of Martin, Joseph was born in the village in c1890 and baptized at Holy Trinity church on 5 February 1890.



During the Great War he enlisted into the colours at Billingham, formerly in the 12th Training Reserve Battalion before transferring to the 23rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (1st Sportsman's). He saw fourteen months active service in France and Italy and spent nine months in hospital. Joseph came home on short leave during August 1918 before returning to France to take part in heavy fighting around Vaulx-Vraucourt near Morchies. He was mortally wounded in an attack on Slag Avenue and sadly died on 7 September 1918 aged 28. He has no known grave and his name is commemorated on the Viz-en-Artois Memorial.

Dear Madam,

It is with every regret and deep sympathy that I have to write you concerning the death in action of your son, No. 66561, Lance Corporal Joseph Lee who was in my Company. Although I have only been with the Company a short time I had already noticed the sterling good conviction of this NCO. Both officers, NCOs and men feel his loss very much and we all desire to express to you our very deepest sympathy at his loss, but you can rest assured his end was a painless ordeal and his death was instantaneous. I was present when he was laid to rest, and over his grave was erected a little cross with the inscription that "He gave his all". He was killed about 11pm on Sept 7th.

*Yours sincerely,
Sydney W V., 2nd Lieut O.C D Coy,
23rd (1st Sportsman) Royal Fusilliers."*

