



William James

1883 – 1915

William was born around 1883 in Wakefield and lived with his parents and siblings at 44 Vicarage Street, Wakefield. His father, Edward James was a Gas Stoker, born in Gloucester in 1859. His mother was Ellen James, born in Portsmouth, Hampshire in 1854. Unfortunately, she died in 1892, and his father remarried, Mary James.

William had seven brothers and sisters: Annie; Ellen, born 1876; Edward, born 1881; Charles, born 1885; Thomas, born 1886; and George, born 1889.

William married Martha Gillson at the parish church in Hanging Heaton on 4 March 1911 and their son, William, was born on 20 December 1911. (Martha remarried Harry Robinson in 1919.) The 1911 census records William's occupation as a Postman and the family lived at 25 Woodbine Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.



William was attested into the army at Leeds on 28 January 1901. He served as a Rifleman in the 3rd Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps and his service number was 3437. On the 1901 census, William is recorded as being based at Alverstoke New Barracks, near Gosport, Hampshire. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 11 February 1909. He re-engaged on 27 November 1912 until 28 January 1913 and then was recalled again on the outbreak of war.

William was posted to Flanders on 19 January 1915 and was killed at Dickebusch, near Ypres on 15 February 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, as well as on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour at Dewsbury Library.

William was awarded the 1914 Star, the War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In Memory of
Rifleman

William James

3437, 3rd Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 15 February 1915 Age 32

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward James, of 44, Vicarage St., Wakefield; husband of Martha Robinson (formerly James), of 25, Woodbine St., Flatts, Dewsbury's Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

JAMES W.