



James Edward Kay

1881 - 1916

James was born at Marton-le-Moor near Boroughbridge in 1881. His father was George Kay, a farm labourer born in Follifoot near Harrogate in 1853 and died in 1932. His mother was Catherine (née Burke) born in Hutton Moor near Ripon in 1853 and died in 1908. They were married in 1877.

Their other children were: Mary Agnes, born in 1878, George, born in 1879, Eliza, born in 1882, Ellen (birth name Helen), born in 1884 and died in 1916, John, born in 1886, Fred, born in 1892 and Alfred Henry, born in 1894.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Marton-le-Moor, in 1891 and 1901 at Whitley Lower, Thornhill and in 1911 at Whitley Road, Thornhill.

James worked as a coal miner and was married to Jane Ann Hatfield (born in 1874 and died in 1954) at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown on 25th December 1909. In 1911 they lived at Briestfield Road, Thornhill and later at 18, Thornhill Road, Westtown. They had three children; Catherine, born in 1910, Norman, born in 1914 and Annie, born in 1915.

He enlisted in Mirfield serving as Private 4545 in the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) with the later Service Number 241351. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916 whilst his Regiment, as part of the 149th Division attacked the Salient around Thiepval known as the "Pope's Nose". His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 20th 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 equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

James 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 St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

James Edward Kay

241351, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

