



James Henry Simpson

1888 - 1916

James was born in Mirfield in 1888. His mother was Emma Simpson (née Walker) born in Batley Carr in 1848 and died in 1900. She had married John Simpson (born in Wortley, Leeds in 1837 and died in 1879) at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield on 5th August 1871.

On the 1881 Census his mother Emma was recorded as a widow and the resident housekeeper for Mr. Thomas Taylor, a widower born in Gomersal in 1833 and a Maltser by trade who lived in Clough's Buildings, Clough Lane, Mirfield. At that time she had three children, Sarah Jane, born in 1872, Samuel, born in 1877 and Ada, born in 1880 and recorded as Taylor's illegitimate daughter. Emma was still Taylor's housekeeper in 1891 and had had two further children, Tom, born in 1884 and James Henry; it would seem certain that Taylor was their father. Emma and Thomas Taylor were married in 1893.

James was a single man who worked as a hurrier in a coal mine. On the 1911 Census he is recorded as a boarder living at 42, Old Bank, Greenside, Mirfield with his sister Sarah Jane (now Mrs Charles Abbott) and their six children.

He served as Private 241345 in the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 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 the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Mirfield War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

James Henry Simpson

241345, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 September 1916 Age 28

Brother of Sarah J. Abbott, of 42, Old Bank, Greenside, Mirfield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

SIMPSON J. H.