



James Riley

1878 – 1917

James was born in Dewsbury on 7th February 1878, his full birth name was registered as *James Andrew Riley*; He was baptised at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 3rd March 1878 as *Andrew Reilley*. His father was Patrick *Reilly* born in Ireland around 1846 and died in 1879. His mother was Margaret (nee Scally) born in Castlereagh, County Down, Ireland around 1852 and died in 1895. They were married on 1st November 1869 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

Their other children were: Joseph, born in 1870, Mary, born in 1872, Ellen, born in 1874 and John, born in 1876.

Margaret was remarried in 1890 to Thomas Williams (born in Oldham, Lancashire in 1854 and died in Liverpool in 1934). In 1891 they lived at Ingham Road, Westtown.

In 1909 James (surname registered as *O'Riley*) was married to Mary Connor (born in 1889 and died in 1923). In 1911 the family lived at 31, Swallow Road, Westtown, Dewsbury, James is recorded as a dyer's labourer for a Mr. Leonard Firth. They had three children; Ellen, born in 1910 and died in 1911, Margaret, born in 1912 and died in 1935 and Mary, born in 1914 and died in 1914.

He had served in the South African Campaign (Boer War) and was recalled to the colours as a reservist shortly after the outbreak of War, joining the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 11329; he was later transferred to the 1st/10th Battalion Manchester Regiment serving as Private 376905 and was sent to the Western Front on 28th November 1914. In May 1915 he developed frostbitten feet and was hospitalised at home for six months before being posted to Egypt for a year and was then sent to back to the Front where he was killed in action on 30th May 1917 whilst on outpost duty near Peronne. He was buried in La Chapelette British and Indian Cemetery, Peronne, Somme, France. James was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Peronne is approximately 20 kilometres east of Amiens. La Chapelette British Cemetery lies a little south of Peronne on the east side of the main road from Peronne to Roye. The town was occupied by British troops on 18th March 1917, lost on 23rd March 1918, and regained on 1st September 1918. The 34th Casualty Clearing Station was at La Chapelette in April-July 1917; the 55th for a short time in April, and the 48th in May; the Lucknow from May 1917, to March 1918; the 53rd and the 12th for short periods in September 1918. There are now 577, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site, 6 of which are unidentified.

James is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of
Private
J Riley

376905, 1st/10th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 30 May 1917

Remembered with Honour
La Chapelette British and Indian Cemetery, Peronne



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

