



James Selwyn Radforth **1889 – 1917**

James was born in Thornhill on 20th October 1889 and was baptised at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 10th January 1890. His father was Henry Radforth, a Willeyer in a Blanket Mill born in Soothill in 1855 and died in 1919. His mother was Mary Jane (nee Noble, formerly Parker) born in Flockton in 1854 and died in 1911. They were married at St. Luke's Church, Middlestown on 14th November 1878.

Their other children were; Thomas Harold, born in 1880, William, born in 1883, Lawrence, born in 1885, Elsie, born in 1887 and died in 1889, Ernest, born in 1892 and died in 1893 and Gertrude Annie, born in 1894 and died in 1900.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records they lived at 11, Smithy Lane, Thornhill, in 1901 at Overthorpe Lane, Thornhill and in 1911 at 2, Island View, Dewsbury.

Mary was previously married to George Parker (born in 1849 and died in 1875) at St. Michael and All Angels Church on 25th December 1873. They had a son, George, born in 1875.

James was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Church of England School and attended St. Michael's Church and Sunday school. Prior to enlisting he worked as a Willeyer in Messrs Wormalds and Walker's Blanket Mill.

He enlisted at the outbreak of war serving as Private 235088 *Selwyn Radforth* in the 1st/5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with a previous number 3747. He was wounded in August 1916 and according to the report of his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 4th August 1917, and had served "*a very long time*" in France. He was killed in action in Flanders on 19th July 1917, when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas Shells on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. He is buried in Ramscappelle Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery is located 2 Kms east of Nieuwpoort on the road which leads from Nieuwpoort to Sint Joris. From June to November 1917, Commonwealth Forces held the front line in Belgium from St. Georges (now Sint Joris), near Ramscappelle, to the sea. The Cemetery started with Plot 1 in the middle of the graveyard. Most of the interments were made in July and August 1917. The burial ground was substantially enlarged after the Armistice of November 1918. At that time, the remains of the deceased from the battlefields and a number of smaller cemeteries were brought to Ramscappelle for interment. There are now 841 Commonwealth casualties of World War I who are either buried or commemorated in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery. Of those, 312 are unidentified.

James is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *James Sn Radforth* on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of
Private
S Radforth

235088, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 19 July 1917

Remembered with Honour
Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

