



James Scargill

1897 – 1917

James was born in Thornhill on 17th January 1897 and was baptised at St. Michael and All Angel's Church, Thornhill on 7th March 1897. His father was William Scargill, a Woollen Spinner born in Thornhill in 1868 and died in 1954. His mother was Fanny (nee Lee) born in Thornhill in 1871 and died in 1944. They were married at St. Michael's Church on 18th May 1895.

They also had a daughter, Ella, born in Dewsbury in 1899

In 1901 and 1911 they lived at The Combs, Thornhill and later at 50, The Common, Thornhill.

James was a single man who was educated at the Thornhill National School and regularly attended St Michael's Church and Sunday school. Prior to enlistment he worked as a Clerk at the Dewsbury Pioneers' Industrial Society.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in April 1916 serving as Private 28112 in the 1st/5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and worked for eleven months at the recruiting office in Pontefract as a Clerk, before being sent to the Western Front on 20th June 1917. He was killed in action in Belgian Flanders on 24th July 1917, when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. He was buried in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen. 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 on the War Memorial at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

James Scargill

28112, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 July 1917 Age 20

Son of William and Fanny Scargill, of 50, The Common, Thornhill, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

