



James Schofield

1890 - 1917

James was born in Dewsbury in 1890. His father was William Schofield, a Rag Warehouseman born in Dewsbury in 1865 and died in 1921. His mother was Ann Denison (nee Rhodes) born in Woodkirk near Dewsbury in 1864 and died in 1923. They were married on December 24th 1887 at St. Mary's Church, Woodkirk.

They also had two daughters; Elsie Maud, born in 1888 and Mona, born in 1891.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records they lived at 63, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 2, Norton Terrace, Westtown,

James was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and attended St. Matthew's Church Westtown. He was employed as a bootmaker for Mr. R. Law of Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in February 1916 serving as Private 20169 in the 1/5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front around June that same year. He died of wounds sustained during the Battle of Passchendaele on 11th October 1917 at No. 2 Anzac Cell Dressing Station having been hit by a shell whilst helping a fellow wounded soldier. He was buried in Oxford Road Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Oxford Road was the name given to a road running behind the support trenches, from a point west of the village of Wieltje south-eastwards to the Potijze-Zonnebeke road. Plot I is the original Oxford Road Cemetery and was used by the units fighting on this front from August 1917 to April 1918. In October 1917, another cemetery, known as Oxford Road Cemetery No.2, was started close by and now forms Plot V of the cemetery as it appears today. After the Armistice, Plots II, III and IV were added when scattered graves from the battlefields east and south-east of Ypres (now Ieper) were brought into the cemetery. There are now 851 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 297 of the burials are unidentified and special memorials commemorate three casualties known to have been buried in the cemetery, but whose graves could not be located.

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 in the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown and on the War Memorial in Dewsbury Parish Church School.

In Memory of

Private

James Schofield

201619, 1st/5th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 11 October 1917 Age
25

Son of William and Ann Dermison Schofield, of 2, Norton Terrace, West Town Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Oxford Road Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.