



James Dillon 1880 – 1915

James was born in Dewsbury on 14th October 1880. His father was John Dillon, born in County Mayo, Ireland around 1851 and died in 1924. His mother was Catherine (nee Smith) born in County Sligo, Ireland around 1856 and died in 1912. They were married on 15th August 1874 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown.

Their other children were; Catherine, born in 1876, Michael, born in 1877 and died in 1877, John, born in 1878 and died in 1882, Ann, born in 1879, John Thomas, born in 1882, Thomas, born in 1884 and died in 1884, Mary Frances, born in 1885, Michael, born in 1887, Margaret Ellen, born in 1888 and Ann, born in 1891.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Middle Road, Westtown, in 1891 at 9, Corrie Fold off High Street, Westtown, in 1901 at 9, Hemingway's Yard off Middle Road and in 1911 at 26, New Street, Westtown.

James worked as a Mason's Labourer in 1911. He was married to Catherine Agnes Flanagan (born in 1874 and died in 1923) on 29th December 1913 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church; they lived at 3, Back New Street, off Princess Street, Dewsbury and he was employed at Batley Gas Works. They had no children but Catherine previously had a son, John Flanagan, born in 1909.

He was a reservist who was called up at the outbreak of war, enlisting in Dewsbury and serving as Private 16160 in the 2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment. He was killed in action by a shell burst on 2nd June 1915 in Flanders. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. James was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His wife received news of her husband's death in a letter from a friend of his writing from the Front: *"Dear Madam, It is with deepest regret that I inform you of the death of your husband, who was instantaneously killed on June 2nd, a German shell bursting close by him while he was at his post. He received a most respectable burial, and an inscription is on his grave. Your parcel to him has been shared between his friends, according to an agreement made between them in case an accident should happen. Kindly accept our deepest sympathy in your bereavement. On behalf of his friends, Pte. W. Kaye."* Together with his letter Pte. Kaye returned the final letter sent by Mrs Dillon to her husband. It had arrived after his death. Sadly, James's grave was lost or destroyed in later battles.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave.

James is also 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Private

James Dillon

16160, 2nd Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 02 June 1915

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

