



## **William James**

### **1883 – 1915**

William was born in Wakefield in 1883. His father was Edward James, a Gas Stoker born *Edward Jones* in Highnam near Gloucester in 1853 and died in 1928. His mother was Ellen Cross (sometime Judd) born in Portsmouth, Hampshire in 1854 and died in 1892. No marriage record has been found.

Their other children were; Ellen, born in 1875, Mary Ann, born in 1878, Edward Walter, born in 1881, Charles, born in Warrington, Lancashire in 1885, Thomas, born in 1886 and George Robert, born in 1888 and died in 1892. On the 1881 Census, a daughter, Annie is recorded aged 10 and born in Blaina, South Wales; no positive birth or death record can be found and she does not appear on any further census. On the 1871 Census, Ellen Judd is living with her family at Aberystroth near Blaina so there must be a connection, but nothing has been found to prove this.

Edward was remarried under the name of *Edward Jones*, widower at Highnam on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1893 to a widow, Mary Wintle (nee Bartlett), born in Hasfield, Gloucestershire in 1852 and died in 1924. Mary was previously married in 1873 to Joseph Wintle (born in 1850 and died in 1889).

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Laycock's Yard, Wakefield, in 1891 at 6a, Elm Street, Wakefield, in 1901 at 36, Vicarage Street, Wakefield, and in 1911 at 44, Vicarage Street, Wakefield.

William was married to Martha Gillson (born in 1890) at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1911; they had a son, William, born 20<sup>th</sup> December 1911. The 1911 census records William's occupation as a Postman and the family lived at 25 Woodbine Street, Flatts, Dewsbury. Martha was remarried in 1919 to Harry Robinson (born in 1890).

He attested at Leeds on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1901 and on the 1901 census he is recorded as being based at Alverstoke New Barracks near Gosport, Hampshire. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1909. He re-engaged on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1912 until 28<sup>th</sup> January 1913 and then was recalled again on the outbreak of war serving as Rifleman 3437 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps. He was posted to the Western Front on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1915 and was killed in action at Dickebusch, near Ypres on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and who have no known grave.

William is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of  
Rifleman

## William James

3437, 3rd Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 15 February 1915 Age 32

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward James, of 44, Vicarage St., Wakefield; husband of Martha Robinson (formerly James), of 25, Woodbine St., Flatts, Dewsbury's Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

JAMES W.