



James Midgley Goodfellow 1888 – 1915

James was born in Chapeltown, Leeds on 11th September 1888. His father was William James Goodfellow, a Brickmaker born in Madeley, Staffordshire in 1867 and died in 1915. His mother was Annie (nee Midgley) born in Leeds in 1866 and died in 1949. They were married at St. John the Baptist Church, Newtown, Leeds on 12th May 1888.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1891, Lily, born in 1893, Ethel Annie, born in 1895, Ernest, born in 1898, Nellie, born in 1900, Hannah Maria, born in 1903 and Harold, born in 1905.

On the 1901 Census, the family were living at The Common, Polesworth, Warwickshire and in 1911 at 23, Scout Hill Terrace, Dewsbury.

James was educated at Westtown Church School and attended the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Chapel. He worked as a Blanket Tenterer in 1911 and was married on 18th January 1913 to Eveline Maria Ross (born in 1889 and died in 1972) at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. They lived at Bridge Street, Ravensthorpe and did not have any children. Both James and Eveline worked for Messrs Hirst and Gill, Mungo Manufactures. Eveline later moved to 9, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees. She was remarried on 9th February 1924 to Herbert Harry Hirst (born in 1890 and died in 1970); they had a daughter, Audrey, born 10th December 1924.

He enlisted in "E" Company. 1st/4th Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 2353. He had served 10 years in the Territorials prior to the outbreak of war. He was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915 and died from gas poisoning sustained in action at Boesinghe near Ypres on 19th December 1915; he was buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. James was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Battalion's war diary for 19th December records a gas attack, in which one officer and 23 other ranks died of gas poisoning and 6 other ranks were killed in action. His wife received a letter from the Battalion's commanding officer and his mother received letters from two of his friends. One was a childhood friend, Private Arthur Whitehead.

For much of the First World War, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. Bard Cottage was a house a little set back from the line, close to a bridge called Bard's Causeway, and the cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank. Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918 and they reflect the presence of the 49th (West Riding), the 38th (Welsh) and other infantry divisions in the northern sectors of the Ypres Salient, as well as the advance of artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917. There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church. He is one of 7 men whose names appear twice on the Roll of Honour and on the Cenotaph.

Goodfellow James.	Ravensthorpe.	Pte.	KOYL.	
Goodfellow James Midgley.	9, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees.	Pte. 2353.	1/4 KOYL.	Died from gas poisoning. Ypres. 19. 12. 15.

In Memory of

Private

James Midgley Goodfellow

2353, "E" Coy. 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 19 December 1915 Age 27

Son of William and Annie Goodfellow, of Leeds; husband of Eveline M. Goodfellow, of 9, Queen St.,
Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Bard Cottage Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

