



James Phillips

1884 – 1914

James was born at 31, Spring Street, Runcorn, Cheshire on 30th March 1884. His father was Thomas Phillips, a Chemical Worker and sometime Coal Dealer born in 1847 and died in 1905. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Blackman) born in 1852 and died in 1892. They were married in 1869.

Their other children were; James, born in Runcorn in 1871 and died in 1871, Mary Ellen, born in County Wicklow, Ireland in 1873, Thomas, born in County Wicklow in 1877, William John, born in County Wicklow in 1880 and died in 1880, Agnes Anne, born in County Wicklow in 1882, Patrick Edward, born in Runcorn in 1888 and died of sickness in Suez, Egypt on 6th December 1914 whilst returning from serving in India with the Leinster Regiment and was en route to the Western Front, Josephine, born in Runcorn in 1890 and died in 1895.

Thomas Snr was remarried in the second quarter of 1894 to a widow, Sarah Boyling, nee Brady (born in Salford in 1858 and died in 1915) they had a daughter, May, born in 1902; Sarah had three children to her first marriage to George Boyling (born in 1858 and died in 1885*) Florence, born in 1883, George Nicholas, born in 1885 and Winifred, born in 1892* so her father was likely to have been Thomas Phillips Snr.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 30, Hoffman Street, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield.

The 1901 Census shows that James was a serving soldier in the Lancashire Fusiliers, stationed at Chatham, Kent. He was married to Annie Degan (born in Widnes in 1892 and died in 1954) on 10th November 1913 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown. James was employed by Mr. Wakefield, chemical manufacturer of Savile Town, along with his brother Thomas.

Annie was remarried to his brother Thomas in 1919 and one of their sons was another James Phillips, who was killed in action in World War 2 on 10th August 1944 during the Normandy Campaign. Annie died in 1954 and Thomas in 1949.

He was mobilised at Dover on 5th August 1914 and enlisted in Bury, Lancashire serving as Private 7984 in the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. He was killed in action near Harcourt, France on 26th of August 1914 at the Battle of Le Cateau. He was initially buried with eleven other men at Harcourt (now Haucourt) near to where they had fallen, and whilst the site was marked, further action later in the war in that area meant that the exact location was lost. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France. James was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The 2nd Battalion had travelled from Southampton to Boulogne aboard the S.S. Saturnia (22nd – 23rd August). On arriving in France they were taken by rail to Bertry where after a brief respite they marched to Ligny, where the men bivouacked for the night. Journeying to Viesly, the Battalion then marched through the night in order to arrive in the area of Harcourt on 26th August.

La Ferte-sous-Jouarre is a small town 66 kilometres to the east of Paris, located on the main road running east from Paris. The Memorial is situated in a small park on the south-western edge of the town, on the south bank of the River Marne. La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial to the Missing commemorates 3,740 officers and men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) who fell at the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne between the end of August and early October 1914 and have no known graves.

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 Phillips

7984, 2nd Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 26 August 1914

Remembered with Honour

La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

