



## **James Greenwood**

### **1899-1918**

James was born in Ravensthorpe on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1899. His father was James Hinchcliffe Greenwood, a blanket raiser born in Batley Carr in 1865 and died in 1931. His mother was Ellen, sometimes Nelly or Nellie (nee Barton) born in Marshside, Southport, Lancashire in 1868 and died in 1933. They were married in 1888.

Ellen had a son, George Barton born in 1884 and died in 1885.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Fell Lane, Mirfield, in 1901 at North Road, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 47, Back Hanover Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Their other children were: Edward, born in 1891 and was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1916, James, born in 1893 and died in 1893, Alice Ada, born in 1895 and died in 1896, Hilda, born in 1902 and died in 1902, Nelly/Nellie, born in 1903 and Annie, born in 1907 and died in 1907.

James was a single man who worked as a mule minder in a woollen mill.

He attested in Pontefract on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1917 with the Service Number 41478 and later as Private 107510 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) and was sent to The Western Front on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1918. He was killed in action in France on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918 during the First Day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of the Aisne (*Operation Blücher-Yorck*), the third stage of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. For three and a half years from September 1914, this part of the front was held by French forces and the city remained within the range of German artillery. Here, at the end of May 1918, they found themselves facing the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. The Allied counter attack drove back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 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 Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

**James Greenwood**

107510, 1st Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 27 May 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Soissons Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

