



James Crossland

1893 – 1916

James was born in Dewsbury on 11th December 1893. His father was George Henry Crossland, a Slater born in Leeds in 1860 and died in 1947. His mother was Lucy Fanny (née Fenton) born in Dewsbury in 1865 and died in 1938. They were married at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 25th December 1884.

Their other children were; Mary, born in 1885 and Sarah Ann, born in 1888.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 86, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 95, Tweeddale Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 21, Hanover Street, Dewsbury and later at 5, Milton Terrace, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury.

James attended St. John the Baptist Church and Sunday school in Dawgreen. The 1911 census records his employment as a mill hand, and prior to enlisting he worked as an Assistant Percher for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons Limited at Queen's Mill.

He enlisted in May 1915 into the 2nd/5th Battery, 2nd/2nd West Riding Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery as serving as Gunner 2374. He qualified as a Shoeing-Smith and was home on leave from training at Salisbury Plain at the end of February; shortly after his return he was taken ill and was admitted to Codford Military Hospital, Wiltshire where he died from double pneumonia on 14th March 1916. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. James did not receive any medal awards as he did not serve overseas.

He was given a full military funeral at Dewsbury Cemetery on Friday 17th March. His coffin was transported by rail to Dewsbury station, placed on a gun carriage and taken to his parents' Milton Terrace home. Thousands lined the streets as the Union Jack covered coffin was then taken from his home on the gun carriage by men of the 5th Battery, 2nd West Riding Brigade. A detachment from Salisbury Plain and a party of around 100 men from the Artillery Brigade stationed at Valley Parade, Bradford also attended, and the Artillery band headed the procession to St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen for the funeral service. At the burial, a firing party fired three volleys, the band played 'O God Our Help in Ages Past' and the buglers sounded the 'Last Post'.

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 Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill and on the Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of
Gunner Shoeing Smith
James Crossland

2374, 2nd/5th Bty. 2nd/2nd West Riding Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 14 March 1916 Age 22

Son of George and Lucy Crossland, of 5, Milton Terrace, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

