



James Edward Cooper

1886-1918

James was born on 19th May 1886 and baptised at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 21st November 1886. His father was John William Cooper, an Agent for the Prudential Assurance Company born in Dewsbury in 1857 and died in 1936. His mother was Ellen (nee Richardson) born in Langton by Wragby, Lincolnshire in 1862 and died in 1920. They were married in Bridlington in 1884.

Their other children were; Clara, born in 1884 and died in 1905, William Clifford, in 1887 and served in World War 1, Percy, born in 1889, Dora, born in 1893, John Oswald, born in 1895 and twins; Lena Ellen, born in 1899, Florence May, born in 1899 and died in 1899.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Princes Street, Earlsheaton, in 1901 at Water Lane, Earlsheaton and in 1911 at 5, Craig-Y-Don, Earlsheaton.

James worked at Messrs M. Oldroyd and Sons, Spinkwell Mills, Dewsbury but joined his father as an Agent for the Prudential Assurance Company, rising to the position of Assistant Superintendent in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire. He was married at St. Philip's Church, Dewsbury on 5th October 1914 to Florence Emma Healey (born in 1883 and died in 1970) who was a schoolteacher at Earlsheaton Church of England School. They lived at 9, Melbourne Street, Hebden Bridge, and had one child, Percy Dennis, born in Hebden Bridge in 1915 and died in Dewsbury in 1918. Florence later lived at 2, Crackenedge Terrace, Dewsbury. In 1939 she lived in Blackpool and was married in 1944 to Thomas Salthouse (born in 1897 and died in 1972).

He enlisted in June 1916 at Hebden Bridge serving as Private 44209 in the 5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in January 1917. He had just returned from leave when he was killed in action in France on 27th March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the War Memorial of the Prudential Assurance Company Limited, High Holborn, London.

In Memory of

Private

James Edward Cooper

44209, 5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

