



James Edward Johnson

1897-1918

James was born in Dewsbury on 23rd July 1897. His father was also James Johnson, a Cloth Comber born in Dewsbury in 1863 and died in 1919. His mother was Sarah Elizabeth (nee Thackeray) born in Armley, Leeds in 1868 and died in 1932. They were married on 25th December 1886 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Joseph, born in 1889, Arthur, born in 1890, Mary Ann, born in 1892, Sam, born in 1895 and died in 1896 and Walter, born in 1900 and died in 1923.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 48, Reform Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 18, Back Russell Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

James was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Moor Council School, in 1911 he was a Grocer's Errand Boy and later worked for Messrs G and J Stubley Limited, Bottoms Woollen Mill, Batley.

He enlisted in 1915 into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 10541 and was later transferred to the 9th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers serving as Private 202135 and was an Acting Lance Corporal for a time; he was gassed in September 1916 which brought on a bout of pneumonia and in 1917 he was wounded in the thigh and ankle. He died of wounds at the 45th Casualty Clearing Station in Awoingt on 24th October 1918 and was buried in Awoingt British Cemetery, Nord, France. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Awoingt is a village some 3 Kms east-south-east of Cambrai and a little south of the main road from Cambrai to Le Cateau. Awoingt British Cemetery was begun in the latter half of October 1918 and used until the middle of December; the village having been captured on 9th/10th October. By 28th October, the 38th, 45th and 59th Casualty Clearing Stations were posted in the neighbourhood, and the great majority of the burials were made from those hospitals, but 16 graves were brought in after the Armistice from the area immediately surrounding the village. Awoingt British Cemetery contains 653 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War, including a special memorial to one casualty whose grave in the cemetery cannot now be found.

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 War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

J E Johnson

202135, 9th Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers who died on 24 October 1918

Son of Mrs. S. E. Johnson, of 18, Back Russell St., Westborough, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Awoingt British Cemetery



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the “In Memory” Website of Pierre Vandervelden.