



James Hoole 1883 – 1915

James was born in Blackrod near Chorley, Lancashire on 12th April 1883. His father was John Hoole, a Coal Miner born in Blackrod in 1847 and died in 1919. His mother was Eliza/Elizabeth (nee Heald, formerly Halliwell) born in Blackrod in 1844 and died in 1901. They were married in 1880.

Their other children were; John, born in 1880 and Richard, born in 1882.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 8, Gashouses, Blackrod, in 1901 at 201, Station Road, Blackrod and in 1911 at 12, Duke Street, Bolton, Lancashire.

Eliza was previously married to Thomas Halliwell (born in 1841 and died in 1879) on 10th July 1864, their children were; Isiah, born in 1864, Sarah Jane, born in 1868, Charles, born in 1873, Mary, born in 1877 and William, born in 1878.

James worked as a Coal Hower in 1901 and in 1911 he was a Labourer/Road Marker for Chorley Corporation; later that year he moved to live in the Dewsbury area and worked at Ossett Gasworks. He was married at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown, Dewsbury on 7th September 1913 to a widow, Rebecca Little (nee Hyland/Highlands) born in County Laois, Ireland in 1864 and died in 1941); she gave her age as 35 and her occupation as a Shopkeeper at 55, High Street, Westtown.

Rebecca had previously led a chequered life and was married at Paddington Register Office in London on 2nd January 1888 to Alfred John (sometimes *John Alford*) Jennings (born in Netheravon, Wiltshire in 1867 and died in London in 1935), a Serjeant in the Grenadier Guards, they had two sons; John Alford Jennings, born in Marylebone, London 11th March 1888 and Ernest Victor Jennings, born in Paddington 8th October 1891 and died there in 1893. Rebecca then had a son, George Edward Tops Jennings; born in Marylebone on 3rd July 1892, no father's name is shown on the birth record. Her first husband Alfred was bigamously married in 1896 to Blanche Edith Emma Burgis (born in Paddington in 1869 and died in 1898) they had a one child; Mary Blanche born in 1897. Alfred was married again in London on 30th September 1902 to Wilhelmina Helgesen (born in North Shields, Northumberland in 1870 and died in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex in 1957).

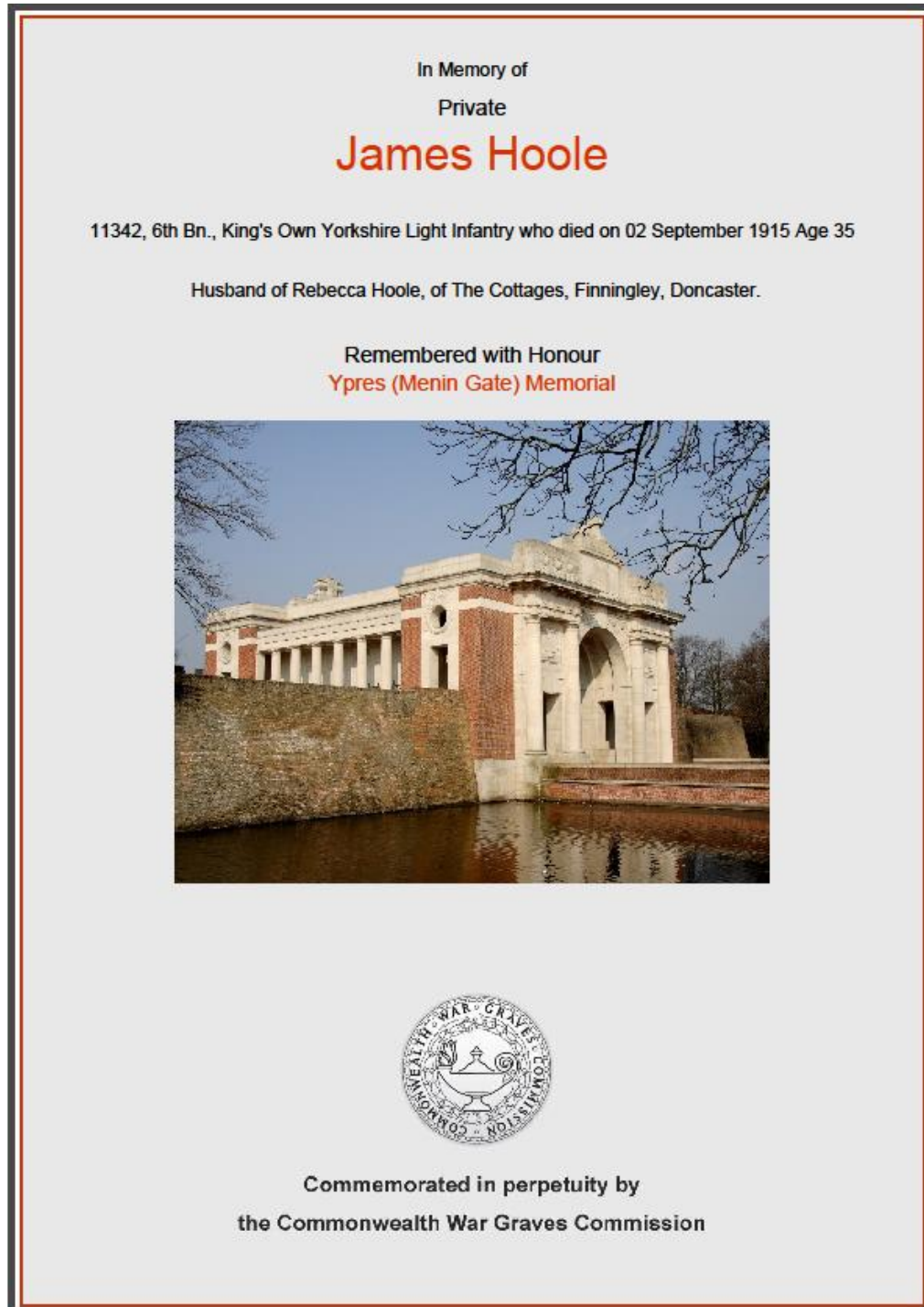
Rebecca was married again in London in 1896 to Francis Albert Little (born in 1856 and died in 1902). On the 1901 Census Rebecca is living at The Green, Ossett with her sons John and George, her age is given as 35. She had a son; Ernest Albert Victor Little, born in Earlsheaton on 2nd April 1907. On the 1911 Census she is living at 55, High Street, Westtown with her son Ernest and a boarder James Breheney; her occupation is given as a Wardrobe Dealer aged 39. On the 1921 Census Rebecca is living with her two sons George and Ernest at The Cottages, Finningley, Doncaster, her age is given as 56.

James enlisted in Wakefield in September 1914 serving as Private 11342 in the 6th Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 21st May 1915. He was killed in action in Flanders on 2nd September 1915; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. James was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His last letter home to his wife and stepson read: *"I have had three attempts at writing this letter, and am now finishing it off in the trenches, where we are knee-deep in mud, owing to heavy rain. Coming to the trenches last night we had about 10 miles of a march, and rain made the ground very slippery. I consider a man very lucky that lives to see this war through. I would like to see you both again; I am always thinking of you both, and wonder what you would think if you could see us at the bottom of the trench trying to get an hour's sleep! Don't get upset if you do not hear from me as usual, as it is very difficult to write in the trenches. Tell Ernest that Dad would like to write to him, but has not had time just now."*

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917 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 War Memorial Plaque in the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown.



HOOLE J.