



## James William Smith

### 1883 – 1915

James William was born in Clark's Cottages, Old Goole on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1883, his birth name is recorded as *Charles William Smith*. He was baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1883 at the Church of St. Laurence, Snaith, East Riding of Yorkshire; his name is recorded as *James Williamson Smith*. He is named on the 1891 Census as *James W Smith*. His father was Joseph Smith, a Dock Labourer and later a Sailor born in Goole in 1852. His mother was Rose (nee Richardson) born in Patrington near Hull in 1855. They were married in the Church of St. Laurence, Snaith on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1874.

Their other children were; Jane Ann, born in 1875, Joseph William, born in 1876 and died in 1876, Florence Elizabeth, born in 1877, Laura Annie, born in 1879, Joe, born in 1886, Tom, born in 1888 and Rose Ethel, born in 1891 and died in 1909.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at 13, Park Terrace, Hook, Goole, in 1891 at 81, Weatherill Street, Hook.

On the 1901 Census Rose is recorded as the wife of Walter White age 47, a general labourer born in London, their address is given as 51, East Cliffe, Dover, Kent; also recorded as living with them are Joseph (Joe), Thomas (Tom) and Ethel (Rose Ethel) their surnames are recorded as White. No marriage has been found for Rose Smith and Walter White. James William is living at the home of his aunt Mrs. Elizabeth Goodhand at 6, School Street off West Street, Kirkstall, Leeds. His occupation is given as a railway shunter and his name is recorded as *William Smith* which seems to be the name he used from around this time onwards

He enlisted under the name of William Smith in the Militia of the Royal Garrison Artillery in Leeds on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1903 with the Service Number 4377, Following his Militia training, he enlisted in the Yorkshire Regiment on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1903 with the Service Number 7583. His obituary published in the local press on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1915 stated that he had served 12 years in the Army but this length of time must have been an error. His obituary also stated that he was employed as a labourer at Dewsbury Gasworks.

James William gave his occupation as a Shunter when he was to married Lily Stamp (born in 1889 and died in 1968) on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1909 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. They had a son, Joseph, born in 1910. On the 1911 Census Lily and her son are living at the home of her parents William and Martha Stamp at 6, Wheelwright Street, Wellington Road, Dewsbury; she later lived at 11, Kent Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury. Lily was remarried on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916 at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen, Dewsbury to Robert Robinson (born in 1878 and died in 1953) they had two children; Annie, born in 1917 and Robert, born in 1920.

Recalled at the outbreak of war, he attested in Leeds serving as Private 7583 William Smith in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 5th October 1914. Soon after this date he received a shrapnel wound to the muscle of his left arm at Ypres and was sent home to recuperate at York; upon his recovery he was posted to Hartlepool and was there when the town was bombarded by the German Fleet on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1914. He returned to the Front on 17th February 1915 and sent regular letters home to his wife. He was killed in action on the First Day of the Battle of Loos on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. James William was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After receiving no letters for over a month his wife wrote to his regiment and received a sympathetic reply dated 8<sup>th</sup> October from Company Quartermaster Serjeant J.H. Smithies stating that he was killed by a bullet near Hulluch during the British Advance.



The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery. Loos-en-Gohelle is a village north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located 1 kilometre west of the village. The Loos Memorial commemorates 20,599 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay, from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war.

James William is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of  
Private  
**William Smith**

7583, 2nd Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 25 September 1915

Remembered with Honour  
**Loos Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

