



James William Asquith

1897 - 1916

James was born in Dewsbury in 1897. His father was George Asquith, a grocery warehouseman born in Mirfield in 1861 and died in 1931. His mother was Ann (née North) born in Mirfield in 1860 and died in 1926. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield on 26th December 1883.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at Greenside, Mirfield, in 1901 at Hollinroyd Wood, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 3, Ings Road, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Emma, born in 1884 and died in 1903, Arthur North, born in 1886, George Ernest, born in 1888 and died in 1908, Alfred Hubert, born in 1889, Dora, born in 1891, Hilda, born in 1893, Lois, born in 1894 and died in 1896, Charles Henry, born in 1899 and served in World War 1, Eva, born in 1901 and May, born in 1903 and died in 1903.

James was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and was a member of Leeds Road Baptist Young Men's Class. In 1911 he worked as a printer's errand boy but prior to enlistment he was employed by Messrs S. Crawshaw and Sons, leather manufacturers.

He enlisted in September 1915 serving as Private/Signaller 26447 in the 10th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in July 1916. He was killed in action on 24th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death was not officially confirmed until December 1917.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

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 from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of
Private Signaller

James William Asquith

26447, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 25 September 1916 Age 19

Son of George and Ann Asquith, of 3, Ings Rd., Leeds Rd., Dewsbury, Leeds. Enlisted Sept., 1915.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

ASQUITH J.W.