



James McDermott

1882 – 1915

James was born in Westtown, Dewsbury on 14th March 1882. His father was also James McDermott, a General Labourer born in Ballymote, County Sligo, Ireland around 1842 and died in 1897. His mother was Catherine, born in County Sligo around 1843 and died in 1887 from complications of childbirth; her age at death was given as 37. It has not been possible to confirm her maiden name; her marriage record spells it as *Bree*, her children's birth and baptismal records have various spellings, *Brear*, *Bree*, *Breen*, *Bray*, *Brey*, *Bred*. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown on 25th April 1870.

Their other children were; Thomas, born in 1871, Winifred, born in 1873 and died in 1874, Annie, born in 1875, John (I), born in 1877 and died in 1880, Mary, born in 1880 and died in 1881, John (II), born in 1884 and died in 1884 and Catherine, born in 1887 and died in 1887.

On the 1871 Census the family lived at Manor Street, Westtown, in 1881 and 1891 at 17, Whitworth Road, Westtown.

James was employed as a Bottle Hand at Kilner Brothers Glassworks in Thornhill Lees. He was married to Mary Henry (born in 1882 and died in 1948) at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church in 1906; on the 1911 Census they lived at 34, Princess Street, Dewsbury and later at Hanover Square, Westtown. They did not have any children. Mary was remarried in 1920 to Charles Blackall (born in 1884 and died in 1960).

He enlisted in the Militia on 9th May 1900 and joined the Regular Army on 6th June 1900 serving for three years as Private 7572 in the 3rd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was recalled at the outbreak of war in August 1914 into the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry rising to the rank of Lance Corporal with the Service Number 6636 and was sent to the Western Front on 1st October 1914. He was killed in action near Wulverghem, Belgium on 24th January 1915 and was buried in Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. James was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery is located 13 Kms south of Ieper (Ypres). It was begun in December 1914 by four battalions of the 5th Division and was called at first Wulverghem Dressing Station Cemetery. There are now 1,010 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 352 of the burials are unidentified.

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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
J McDermott

6636, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 January 1915

Remembered with Honour
Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

