



James Shaw

1882 - 1917

James was born in Rawfolds, Liversedge in 1882. His father was John Shaw, a Railway Carter born in County Down, Ireland in 1862. His mother was Ann (nee Hinchliffe) born in Heckmondwike in 1862 and died in 1903. They were married on 6th June 1881 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall.

They had two other sons; William, born in County Down around 1886 and was killed in action on 5th August 1915 and Reginald, born in Dewsbury in 1901.

In 1891 the family lived at Chapel Lane, Heckmondwike and in 1901 at 44, Cullingworth Street, Staincliffe, Dewsbury.

John was remarried on 18th February 1904 at All Saints Church, Batley to Eliza Hammerton (born in 1873); they had a daughter Mary Elizabeth, born around 1908. In 1911 John, Eliza and the two youngest children are living at Ballycultra, County Down and later at Olive House, Church View, Holywood, County Down.

James was recorded as a hurrier in a coal mine on the 1901 Census as was his brother William but later became Head Willeyer at Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Halifax Road, Dewsbury. When William joined up in 1915, James was given his job as a warehouseman at Bickers Department Store on Bradford Road, Dewsbury. He was married on 14th January 1903 to Julia Ann Booker (born in 1876 and died in South Shields in 1932). They had a son, Arnold, born in 1907 and died in 1907. On the 1911 Census they lived at 7, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe and later at 128, Knowles Hill Road, Dewsbury Moor and then 37, Elizabeth Terrace, Woodville Road, Dewsbury. James was a member of Moorend Lane Working Men's Club and also a member of Heckmondwike Football and Cricket Clubs.

He enlisted in Pontefract on July 31st 1916 serving as Private 40057 in the 8th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front in December 1916. He was killed in action by shell fire on 9th April 1917 near Ypres and was buried in Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm), Zillebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) is located 2 Kms south-east of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. The commune of Zillebeke contains many Commonwealth cemeteries as the front line trenches ran through it during the greater part of the First World War. Railway Dugouts Cemetery is 2 Kms west of Zillebeke village, where the railway runs on an embankment overlooking a small farmstead, which was known to the troops as Transport Farm. The cemetery now contains 2,459 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 430 of the burials are unidentified and 261 casualties are represented by special memorials.

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

In Memory of

Private

James Shaw

40057, 8th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 09 April 1917 Age 35

Son of John and Ann Shaw; husband of Julia Ann Shaw, of 37, Elizabeth Terrace, Woodville Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm)



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

