



**Private Harry James G/15081**



12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in action Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1916

Age 23

Thiepval Memorial, France Pier and Face 7C

Burbage War Memorial

Wesleyan War Memorial



Harry was the eldest son of six surviving children of William and Annie James. He was born at Enderby in 1893.

The father was a brickyard labourer from Sutton Bonington who had grown up in the Loughborough workhouse. The family moved around the areas of Mountsorrell, Stoney Stanton and eventually Sapcote probably working at one of the local quarries.

By the age of six Harry and his family were living at 2 Calver Hill Sapcote. The father William is not on the Census.

In 1911 Harry and his widowed mother and five siblings are still living at Calver Hill. William the father perhaps died sometime after 1907 when the youngest child Stanley was born.

Perhaps being quarrymen, they attended the Sapcote Methodist Chapel which had been built by quarrymen in the early 1900's.

Harry and his siblings would have attended the local Sapcote School.

Harry at 18 worked at the local quarry and would have been the main financial supporter of the family along with his sixteen-year-old brother Thomas and fourteen-year-old George.

There are no records of when Harry enlisted, perhaps he was reluctant being a main wage earner for the family.

By 1916 he would have completed his basic training at Aldershot with the Sussex Regiment. On the 5 and 6 March 1916 they embarked for France.

The Sussex Regiment were in the Somme region in readiness for the big attack on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The day before, 30<sup>th</sup> June, the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> divisions were sacrificed in a diversionary raid on the Boars head salient at Richebourg in an attempt to draw German attention away from the main Somme battle area further south.

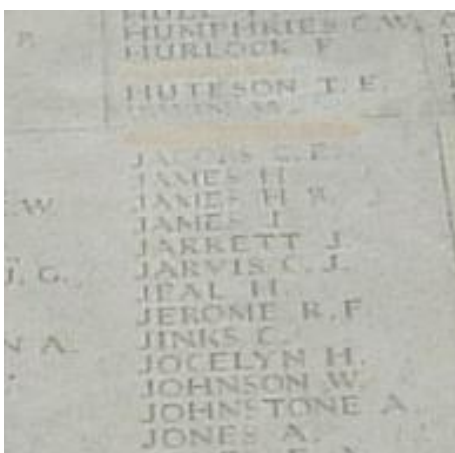
The battle lasted only five hours but the losses were great 349 men and 17 officers were killed and over a 1000 wounded, the 13<sup>th</sup> battalion were all but wiped out. The day was subsequently known as the day Sussex died.

Harry James survived this terrible sacrifice and went on to fight for another three months.

In October the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion were engaged at Thiepval Ridge and on the 14<sup>th</sup> Schwaben Redoubt was captured.

Harry was killed in action in this area on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

His remains were never recovered but his name is on the Thiepval Memorial.



Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

Sometime during WW1 the family moved to Balls Lane and settled in Burbage.

