



Private Harry James G/15081



12th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in action Tuesday 17th 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 1st July.

The day before, 30th June, the 12th and 13th 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.

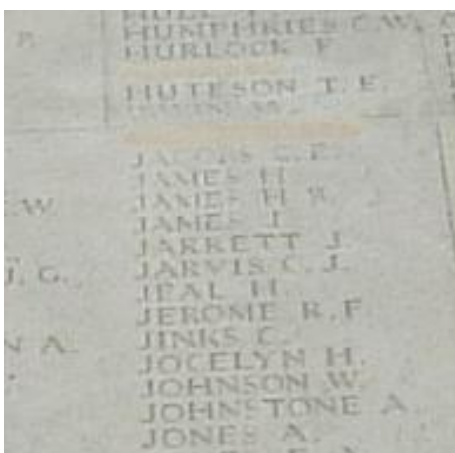
The battle lasted only five hours but the losses were great 349 men and 17 officers were killed and over a 1000 wounded, the 13th battalion were all but wiped out. The day was subsequently known as the day Sussex died.

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

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

Harry was killed in action in this area on the 17th 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.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedules 28
(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink. The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, in this dwelling and has since been absent for less than 24 hours, or who arrived in this dwelling on the 2nd, and has since been unaccompanied elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule)	RELATIONSHIP to head of Family	AGE and SEX	MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every person Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
			Married	Single	Personal Occupation	Industry or Trades with which person is connected			
1. Annie James	Head	39	Widow	79	0	4	Charles Collyer, Leicestershire	English	
2. Harry James	Son	18	Single				Leicestershire	English	
3. Thomas James	Son	16	Single				Leicestershire	English	
4. George James	Son	14	Single				Leicestershire	English	
5. Annie James	Daughter	12	Single				Leicestershire	English	
6. Nellie James	Daughter	10	Single				Leicestershire	English	
7. Stanley James	Son	4	Single				Leicestershire	English	
8.									
9.									
10.									
11.									
12.									
13.									
14.									
15.									

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments) Count the Kitchens as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor wardrobe, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Annie James
Postal Address: Sapcote, Leicestershire