



Woodford Remembers



Pte. Thomas James Parrott

2 June 1895– 27 August 1916

Family

James Parrott (b1847, Riseley) moved to Woodford in the mid 1870s with his wife, Eliza, and two sons Charles (1869) and Alfred to the terraced cottages in Mill Road where three further sons were born; William, Albert and John. He worked as an Ironstone labourer. In August 1880 the Northampton Mercury records that James Parrott was charged with neglecting to provide his son, Charles with a proper education. On 30 October 1889 Charles, a Blacksmith's labourer, married Annie Jane Colson at Woodford St Mary's Church and in 1891 lived in Eady's Row (top end) where they still lived in 1901. By 1911, the couple had moved to Woodwell and had had ten children, eight of whom were living. James (Jimmy) was born to Charles and Annie on 2 June 1895. He attended Woodford Infant School from 13 June 1898 until 1903 when he moved to the Junior School. In November 1911 James, along with Akerman Short of Woodford was summoned to court and each fined 10s for taking six pheasants eggs from a nest.

Army Service

On 5 November 1914, Jimmy joined the Territorial Force - Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion on a four year conscription, number 0965, giving Woodwell as his home address on his attestation. Over 600 members of this battalion were drafted to the 1/8 Royal Warwickshire Regiment in July 1916 and on 29 July 1916 James departed Southampton for Rouen where he arrived on 30 July 1916. On 6 August he officially transferred to the 1/8 Royal Warwickshire Regiment 307685 (although the local newspaper reports of his death, record his number as 20810). He was reported missing on 29 August 1916, although it was later reported that he had been killed in action whilst attacking the Constance Trench near Mouquet Farm (known to the British as Mucky Farm and the Australians as Moo Cow Farm) on the Thiepval Ridge at 7pm on 27 August 1916. At 7pm under a heavy bombardment the British went over the top in two companies. Five minutes later the bombardment ceased and they were to enter the German Trenches. Whilst succeeding in reaching their objectives, due to heavy casualties a retreat was ordered. British War and Victory Medals were forwarded to his next of kin, Charles Parrott (father).

Burial / grave

No known grave

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Thiepval Memorial Panels 9A/9B/10B
Woodford War Memorial
Woodford St Mary's Church Memorial

(Some records show James is recorded on the Sawtry Memorial near Huntingdon. This researcher believes the Sawtry reference is a different serviceman who was born at Midloe near Huntingdon in 1881 and was a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery.)



If you can help with more information please contact

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