

James Billington

Canadian Contingent

Killed in Action 24th May 1917

La Targette British Cemetery where James Billington is buried.



His Story

He was christened at Elworth, Sandbach on 6th January 1889. His father, Samuel, born about 1855 at Church Lawton was a draper's assistant. His mother, Hannah Elizabeth neé Witter was born about 1863 at Wheelock. His siblings were Florence born about 1895; Alice born about 1899 and William born about 1904.

In the 1891 Census he was living at Middlewich Road, Sandbach, the house of Harriet Billington, his grandmother; aged 2. In the 1901 Census he was living in the Village, Holmes Chapel; aged 12.

The family emigrated to Canada from Liverpool by SS Canada, arriving at Quebec 10 July 1910. They first settled at Thorndale, Ontario but moved to London, Ontario by 1915.

His War Record

James enlisted 7 December 1915 with the number 823145. He was posted to the 18th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which embarked on the 18th April 1915 for England.

The Battalion arrived in France on the 15th September 1915.

He was killed in action on the 24th May 1917 and was buried at the La Targette, British Cemetery, Neuville-St Naast, France.

La Targette British Cemetery, formerly known as Aux-Rietz Military Cemetery, was begun at the end of April 1917 and used by field ambulances and fighting units until September 1918. Nearly a third of the graves have an artillery connection; in March-April 1917, the artillery of the 2nd Canadian and 5th Divisions, and certain heavy artillery units, had their headquarters in a deep cave at Aux-Rietz. Sixteen graves were brought into the cemetery from the immediate neighbourhood after the Armistice.