

James Henshall

Cherry Tree Cottages, London Road, Holmes Chapel

Killed in Action 22th October 1914

The home of the Henshall family



His Story

James was born in 1882 to Henry and Hannah Henshall who, at the time lived in Sandbach. Henry was a shoemaker and in 1891 lived at Cherry Tree Cottages (Terrace), London Road. Henry was still in Holmes Chapel in 1901 but James was not on the census. He had already joined the army in 1899.

His War Record

James joined the army on 7th June 1899 when he gave his birth year as 1881. The records show he was 5ft 3ins tall with fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. His army number was 7491 and he joined the 4th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, 22nd Foot. He appears to have remained with the army until 1903 when he bought his discharge. In 1911 a James Henshall was in the army in India but it is not clear that it is the same man.

The Parish Magazine reported that he had joined the Cheshire Regiment in December 1914. Most probably he re-enlisted into the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment; he was a private and served in France and Flanders.

Initially he was reported killed in action but not confirmed. His date of death is recorded as 22nd October 1914. He is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial in France. The Le Touret Memorial commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in late September 1915 and who have no known grave. Almost all of the men commemorated on the Memorial served with regular or territorial regiments from across the United Kingdom and were killed in actions that took place along a section of the front line that stretched from Estaires in the north to Grenay in the south. This part of the Western Front was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war, including the battles of La Bassée (10 October – 2 November 1914), Neuve Chapelle (10 – 12 March 1915), Aubers Ridge (9 – 10 May 1915), and Festubert (15 – 25 May 1915).