

Sergeant James Tomlinson 26290 Tomlinson 16th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Chatsworth Rifles) died on 10/10/1916 aged 25. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

He was the son of Mr & Mrs Joseph Tomlinson of 25 Kirke Street, Retford, Notts..



Below is the report taken from the Retford Times of Feb 1917 announcing that Sergeant James Tomlinson had been missing in action since early October 1916. It is highly likely that James, 25 years of age, was killed or succumbed to wounds during an attack on Schwaben Redoubt in the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme.

“He was the 3rd son of Mr & Mrs JW Tomlinson 25 Kirke Street Retford. He joined the Sherwood Foresters in May 1915, the battalion (16th) being formed by the Duke of Devonshire and called the Chatsworth Rifles. He went to France in February 1916. Prior to enlisting he was a member of the Notts Constabulary and was stationed at Arnold, Huchnall & Warsop. Prior to this he was for 6 years with Mr V Woods, Maryfield, Retford as a groom & gardener”

On 18th May 1917 the Retford Times reported that “Mr & Mrs Tomlinson have received information from the Lichfield Record Office that the Army Council have been regretfully concluded that their 3rd son Sergt James Tomlinson of the Notts & Derbys Reg who had been missing since the 8th or 10th Oct last year, is dead and that his death took place on either the 8th or 10th Oct 1916. They expressed the sympathy of the Army Council in the family’s loss. Their second son Harry is in France serving with the Royal Fusiliers while Sydney the 4th son, has been rejected by the authorities at Derby. The eldest son, Joseph, is on munitions at Messrs W.J. Jenkins and Co. Ltd.