

James LOMAX
Private 67104
Royal Army Medical Corps
Died 10 April 1920 aged 30 years

Buried in the graveyard of Park Lane Unitarian Chapel, Bryn

James Lomax is named on the memorial room Roll of Honour at Park Lane Chapel and also as a signatory to the "Scrap of Paper" illuminated declaration displayed in the chapel entrance. He is further named on the beautiful stained glass window in the chapel.

James was born at Pemberton in 1890, the son of Henry Lomax, an Undermanager in a Coalmine, and his wife Mary. Their address given on the 1901 Census return was 3, Pemberton Cottages. Before enlisting, James worked as a Coalminer at Long Lane Colliery, Bryn, and had married Elizabeth (nee Fairhurst) at Park Lane Chapel in 1910. They had two daughters – Gladys, born in 1911 and Edith born in 1913. (A son, Percy, was born in 1917, following James's discharge from service on medical grounds).

Records show that James enlisted for 'short service', i.e. for the duration of the war, on 26 August 1915, at which time his address is recorded as 43, Brackley Street, Goose Green. He was 5 feet 5 and a half inches tall and it is noted that he had scars on his back, probably due to his occupation as a coalminer as many of those who worked underground are recorded to have had similar scars. He embarked for France on 9 November 1915, but, due to medical problems, was only able to serve for two years before receiving a medical discharge. James applied for the King's Certificate of Discharge and Silver War Badge which was issued to those who had served but had been medically discharged. He had also supplied a letter signed by Mr. Armitstead to confirm that he had worked for the Garswood Coal & Iron Company for 15 years and on 8 January 1917 was certified fit to return to his job by the doctor at the Brocton Camp hospital. An army pension was awarded to him.

At the time of his death, his widow lived at 417 Warrington Road, Goose Green and his parents address is given as 914 Warrington Road, Park Lane.

His medal entitlement was 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal as well as the memorial plaque and certificate from the King which was issued to all those, or their next of kin, who had died either on active service or as a result of having served in the armed forces.