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| **Name** | **JAMES HENRY FORSTER** |
| **Birth** | 1885 Tynemouth |
| **Enlistment/Occupation** | Asst: Civil Engineer, Waterworks |
| **Death, date, location** | 29/09/1915  Killed in action  Battle of Loos |
| **Age** | 30 |
| **Unit, rank, service no:** | Lieutenant  Royal Engineers  2nd/1st (Northumbrian) Field Coy.  [Territorial]  THE LONDON GAZETTE, 25 SEPTEMBER, 1914  1st (The Newcastle) Northumbrian Field Company, Northumbrian Divisional Engineers.  The under mentioned to be Second Lieutenants : —  James Henry Forster. Dated 11th September, 1914.  SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 28 JUNE, 1915  1st (Newcastle) Field Company; the under mentioned Second Lieutenants to be temporary Lieutenants: —  James H. Forster. Dated 5th June, 1915. |
| **Family acknowledgement CWGC** | Son of Alfred L. Forster, of 16, Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (CWGC) |
| **Family** | James Henry Forster is recorded in the 1891 Census as the second of four children of Alfred L. Forster aged 31 who originated from Glamorgan, Wales and his wife Jemima (nee Elliott), also aged 31, who originated from Sunderland. Alfred was the Assistant Engineer to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. The family were living at 29 Louvaine Crescent (off St. Mary’s Place in Newcastle (now redeveloped by the Civic Centre and Northumbria University). Of the four children at home in 1891 James aged 6 and his elder brother Alfred aged 7 had been born in North Shields while Sidney aged 2 and Ethel aged 8 months had been born at the Newcastle Address. Only two years later in 1893 their mother Jemima Forster died. The following year father Alfred married again and Isabella Lishman from Horsley joined the family now living at 5 Haldane Terrace, off Osborne Road, Newcastle. At this date James Henry aged 16 is a boarder at the School for boys, Newgate, Barnard Castle run by North Eastern County Schools.  Ten years later the 1911 Census shows the family with both parents and four sons, James Henry aged 26, Oscar Rudolph 19, Kenneth Lishman 11, and Lawrence Horsley 4, and three daughters Ethel Maude 20, Catherine Isabella 15 and Dorothy 5 plus a domestic servant all of whom are living at Tynewood, next to Wylam Waterworks on the river Tyne below Horsley village.  James Henry was now working as the assistant to the civil engineer for the water company where his father was now the engineer, (having succeeded his father (James Henry’s grandfather) in 1898.)  With these family links with civil engineering in the water industry it is perhaps not surprising that James Henry joined the Royal Engineers during World War 1.  He was commissioned into the 1st. (The Newcastle) Northumberland Field Company Northumbrian Divisional Engineers at the Royal Engineers at the start of the war and promoted temporary Lieutenant in June 1915, but was killed in action on 29th September 1915  The record shows that 2nd/1st Northumbrian Field Company Royal Engineers was attached to the 28th Division in July 1915. The Division was actively involved in the Battle of Loos which took place 25th September -14th October 1915. It was probably during this battle that James was killed on 29th September.  **Brother Oscar Rudolph Forster**  Tony Harding has extracted the following list from:  Stevens, B.D.,  Register of the Royal Grammar School Newcastle upon Tyne 1545-1954,  Gateshead on Tyne, Northumberland Press Limited, 1955.  **Forster, Oscar Rudolph**: b. 1891, s. of A.L. Forster, Wylam. Left 1907. Northd. Div. R.E., 1/2nd Bn. 1915; twice wounded; lieut discharged unfit. Mining Engineer; 1st cl. Cert. of Competency, Bd. Of Trade. Armstrong Coll., Newc. (16 Shaftoe Leazes, Hexham.) |
| **Memorials** | I H Plot 20  VERMELLES BRITISH CEMETERY  CUINCHY  Also commemorated on:-  War memorial Plaque St.Oswin’s church, Wylam  War Memorial Monument, Village Green,Wylam  War Memorial cross, Horsley village  Roll of Honour Barnard Castle School |
| **Comments** | The record for James Henry Forster in both ‘UK Soldiers died in Great War’ and in CWGC sites are extremely brief giving no details of regimental no:, date or place of enlistment, no details of location of death etc. The ‘UK Soldiers killed in Great War’ record states ‘killed in action’ while the International Index gives ‘died of wounds’. |
| **Sources** | UK Soldiers died in Great War 1914-1919  Commonwealth War Graves Commission  1891,1901&1911 Census  [www.Long](http://www.Long) Long Trail  London Gazette 1914 & 1915 |
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