



**Royal Field Artillery,
RFA D/100 Brigade
Service No. 59243**

Gunner JAMES SKIDMORE

Born in Dudley, Worcestershire, in 1883.

Accidental death in Greece on 30 March 1917.

Aged 33.

JAMES SKIDMORE was born in 1883 at 120 Queens Cross, Dudley, son of Joseph Skidmore, an iron moulder, and his wife Sarah (née Barnsley).

Younger brother to Betsy, Susan and Thomas, and older brother to John.

Jim was a brass caster. He was a keen footballer who played for the Shavers End team in Dudley.

The horse-drawn Royal Field Artillery, the most numerous arm of the artillery, was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front line and was reasonably mobile. It was organised into brigades.

Jim Skidmore was in 100 Brigade which formed part of 22nd Division. The units began to assemble in the area of Eastbourne and Seaford, with the artillery at Lewes, from September 1914. The Division crossed to France in early September 1915, all units being concentrated near Flesselles by 9th of the month. But the stay in France was to be very short. On 27 October 1915, the Division, having been moved by train to Marseilles, began to embark for Salonika. It completed concentration there in November, although the final artillery units were still coming in as late as 13 December 1915. The 22nd Division remained in the theatre for the rest of the war.

We have no record of Jim Skidmore's enlistment. He died in an accident on 30 March 1917 after falling from a gun carriage and being crushed under its wheels. During 1917 there was comparatively little activity on the British part of the front in Macedonia, due in part to complex political changes in Greece throughout the year. The main fighting took place around Lake Doiran, where the line was adjusted several times by each side early in the year.

VAILLY BRITISH CEMETERY.



The cemetery was begun in September 1916 for the use of casualty clearing stations on the Doiran front. At the Armistice, it contained about 500 burials but was greatly increased when graves were brought in from three other cemeteries .