



Thomas William Medley **1891 – 1915**



Thomas was born in Dewsbury on 19 October 1891. On his naval papers, it is stated that he was born in Guisborough Yorkshire, but the evidence definitely points to him having been born in Dewsbury.

Not much is known about Thomas' family. His parents were Albert Edward and Mary Maria, nee Herring, who were married in Dewsbury in 1891. In 1919, it is recorded that his mother was living in the Victoria Dock Custom House in London. There are no known siblings.

In 1900, Thomas lived with his maternal grandparents at 49 Upper Camroyd Street, Batley Carr. His grandfather was William Herring, born in Sheffield in 1844, and his grandmother was Jane.

According to a contemporary newspaper account, which appeared at the time of Thomas' death, he went to school at Carlton Street Council School and attended the Eastborough and Centenary Wesleyan Sunday Schools.

Thomas' occupation, as given on his naval papers, was as a Butcher's Assistant, but he joined the Navy as a Stoker Class II in 1910.



Thomas served on three ships before joining HMS Dublin in August 1913. He rose to the rank of Stoker Class I. His service number was K/5229.

Thomas began his naval service on HMS Vivid II, on which he served three times. He also served on HMS Leander and HMS Pandora.

Thomas died on 9 June 1915 in the Adriatic, when HMS Dublin was torpedoed by an Austrian submarine. He is buried in the Bari War Cemetery in Italy.

Thomas' death was reported in the local newspaper, where a letter to Thomas' grandparents appeared from J.D. Kelly. He wrote:

“He [Thomas] died as a brave man at his post. ... Your grandson was esteemed by his officers and shipmates. He was buried in a beautiful cemetery on the shores of the Mediterranean, and his funeral was one of the most impressive and the most largely attended that I have ever seen.”

Thomas is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour in Dewsbury Library.

Thomas received the 1914-1915 Star, the British Campaign Medal and the Victory Medal.

In Memory of
Stoker 1st Class
Thomas William Medley
K/5229, H.M.S. "Dublin.", Royal Navy who died on 09 June 1915
Son of Mrs. M. M. Medley, of 252, Victoria Dock, Custom House, London.

Remembered with Honour
Bari War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission