



Thomas Brown

1896 – 1916

Thomas was born in Hollinwood, a village between Oldham and Manchester on 8th January 1896. His true birth name was Thomas *Healey*. His father was William Brown (born William Herbert Healey), a carter and general carrier born in Uppermill near Oldham in 1867 and died in 1949. His mother was Eliza, (née Hinchliffe) born in Uppermill in 1866 and died in 1927. On the 1911 Census they state that they had been married for 23 years but this is not factual.

Eliza was married to Job Cropper (born in 1864 and died in 1923) on 29th June 1887; they had a son, John Ralph Cropper (later known as John Brown), born on 27th November 1887.

On the 1891 Census William, Eliza and her son John are recorded under the surname of *Brown*; they are living as boarders at the home of Catherine Chapman at 177, Ellesmere Street, Patricroft, Manchester. Their other children were; Joseph *Brown*, born in Patricroft in 1891, James William (Willie) *Healey*, born in Salford in 1894, Esther *Healey*, born in Bury in 1899 and Alfred *Healey*, born in Blackpool in 1901. John, Joseph and James all served in World War 1. In 1901 the family lived at 40, Eccleston Road, Blackpool, in 1911 at Ernest Street, Dewsbury and later at 8, Beatson Street off Ashworth Terrace, Dewsbury.

Thomas was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and worked as a piecener in the woollen mill of Messrs Wilman Brothers, Meadow Mills, Dewsbury. His grandfather John Hinchliffe had served in the Crimean War.

He joined the Territorials on 4th November 1912 as Private 1721 in the 4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry under the name Tom Brown, declaring his age as 17 and his occupation as a miner. He was mobilised on the outbreak of war, but was discharged on 31st October 1914 due to a knee injury. He re-enlisted on 5th August 1915 in the 7th/8th Battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers serving as Private 21169 and was posted to the Gallipoli Campaign on 5th November 1915 and on Christmas Day he was fighting in Egypt. He was sent to the Western Front in early 1916 and came home in the summer on sick leave, returning to France in September 1916, during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme. He died of wounds received in action near Bapaume on 17th December 1916 and was buried in Martinpuich British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Martinpuich is a village 9 kilometres south-west of Bapaume. The cemetery now contains 115 burials and commemorations of the First World War.

Thomas is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Memorial Plaque to former pupils of Eastborough School.

In Memory of

Private

T Brown

21169, 7th/8th Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 17 December 1916

Remembered with Honour
Martinpuich British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

