



Thomas Bertrand Harper

1891 – 1916

Thomas was born at Stocks Bank, Mirfield on 19th November 1891. His father was Henry Harper, a designer to a woollen printer born in Ardwick, Manchester in 1849 and died in 1900. His mother was Emma (née Stott) born in Huddersfield in 1861 and died in 1928. They were married at Christ the King Church, Battysford, Mirfield on 22nd November 1890.

They had a daughter; Florence Eveline, born in Dewsbury in 1895.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 55 and 57, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury and later at 13, Grosvenor Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Henry was previously married at St. Matthew's Church, Ardwick on 5th September 1874 to Elizabeth Ann Poole (born in Manchester in 1847 and died in Mirfield in 1890). Their children were; Frederick William, born in Kirkburton, Huddersfield in 1878, and Charlotte Edith Poole, born in Mirfield in 1883.

Thomas was a single man who worked as a letterpress printer for Terry and Nephew. He was attached to St. Matthew's Church, Westtown where he was a devoted worshipper and was also secretary to the Bible Classes.

He served as Rifleman R/25103 in the 17th Battalion King's Royal Rifles Corps into which he attested in May 1916 and was sent to the Western Front in August 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on the 15th of October 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Thomas is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial Plaque in the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown and as *Thomas Harper* on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now relocated to Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of
Rifleman

Thomas Bertrand Harper

R/25103, 17th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 15 October 1916

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

HARPER T. B.