



## **Thomas Harold Graham**

### **1894 - 1916**

Thomas was born in Horbury in 1894. His father was also Thomas Graham, owner of a Mungo Manufacturers born in South Ossett in 1864 and died in 1930. His mother was Sarah Elizabeth (née Turner) born in Pontefract in 1865 and died in 1925. They were married in 1885.

Their other children were; Annie Elizabeth, born in 1887, Benjamin, born in 1888 and died in 1889, Florence Gertrude, born in 1889, Ethel Irene, born in 1891 and Benjamin Claud, born in 1893 and died in 1893.

On the 1891 Census the family lived High Street, Horbury, in 1901 at "The Laurels" Quarry Hill Road, Horbury, in 1911 at Old Bank Road, Dewsbury and later at Hollow Bank House, Syke Lane, Earlsheaton.

Thomas was a single man who was educated at Ossett Grammar School and later in Ghent, Belgium. He worked in his father's business at Hoyle Head Mills, Earlsheaton.

He entered the Leeds University Officer Training Corps in August 1915, receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1915. He was sent to Ireland and took part in the suppression of the rebellion; he was later attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Rifle Brigade and went to France on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1916. He died on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1916 at the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> London Casualty Clearing Station at Meaulte near Albert, from wounds sustained in the Battle of the Transloy Ridges which lasted from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1916 and was a part of the Battle of the Somme. He was buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In September 1916, the 34<sup>th</sup> and 2/2<sup>nd</sup> London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at the point known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields. They were moved in April 1917 and, except for a few burials in August and September 1918, the cemetery was closed. Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 First World War burials.

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 War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton where a brass plaque to his memory was also erected and on the War Memorial at St. Columba's Church, Scarborough.

In Memory of  
Second Lieutenant

# Thomas Harold Graham

2nd Bn., Rifle Brigade who died on 25 October 1916 Age 21

Son of Thomas and Sarah Elizabeth Graham, of Horlow Bank House, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.