



## **William Chapman**

### **1889 - 1917**

William was born in Manchester in 1889. His parents were Thomas Chapman, a labourer born in Tilsworth, Bedfordshire in 1861 and died in 1917. His mother was Dorothy Ann (nee Morris) born in Sunderland, County Durham in 1862 and died in 1944. They were married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1882.

Their other children were; Joseph, born in Leeds in 1884, Alice, born in Leeds in 1885 and died in 1886, Thomas, born in Thornhill Lees in 1887, Emma, born in Manchester in 1891 and died in 1892, Ruth, born in Manchester in 1893, John, born in Manchester in 1896, Mary, born in Manchester in 1898, Harry born in Hunslet Carr, Leeds in 1900 and Sarah, born in Thornhill Lees in 1902. Joseph, Thomas and John all served in World War 1.

In 1901 the family lived at 117, Charles Street, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, in 1911 at Briestfield Road, Thornhill and later at Thornton Road, Thornhill Lees.

William was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School; he attended Dewsbury Primitive Methodist Church Sunday school and was a member of Thornhill Lees Working Men's Club. He worked as a glass worker at Kilner Brothers Glassworks in Thornhill Lees and was married to Florrie Shaw (born in Castleford in 1894 and died in 1925) at Holy Innocents Church on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1912. They had two children; Bertha, born in 1912 and Fred, born in 1915. They lived at 168, Forrest Cottages, Thornhill Lees. Florrie was remarried to William Henry Beck (born in 1893 and died in 1972) at Holy Innocents Church in 1919; they had a daughter, Vera, born in 1919.

He enlisted in 1915 serving as Private 201818 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with a previous Service Number 4365 and was sent to the Western Front in January 1917. He was killed in action in Northern France on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1917 and was buried in Queen's Cemetery, Bucquoy, Pas-de-Calais, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bucquoy is a village situated on the Arras to Amiens road, 15 km south of Arras. Queens Cemetery is located on the western side of the road just south of the village. Bucquoy was taken by the 7<sup>th</sup> Division in March, 1917. It was partly lost in April 1918, after a prolonged and gallant defence by the 62<sup>nd</sup> (West Riding), 37<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Divisions and was cleared on the following 21<sup>st</sup> August. The cemetery was begun in March 1917 with 23 burials and a further 13 in September 1918. The remainder of the cemetery was made after the Armistice, by the concentration of British and French graves and one American from the battlefields of the Ancre and from small cemeteries in the neighbourhood. There are now over 700 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 200 are unidentified and special memorials record the names of 6 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in Miraumont German Cemetery, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

William 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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

## William Chapman

20818, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 March 1917 Age 27

Son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Chapman, of Thornton Rd., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks; husband of the late Mrs. F. Chapman.

Remembered with Honour

Queens Cemetery, Bucquoy



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

