



Thomas Evans 1884 – 1917

Thomas was born in Dewsbury on 12th February 1884 and baptised at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown on 10th April 1884 (surname spelt *Evens*). His father was also Thomas Evans, a Dyeman's Grinder born in Wolverhampton in 1849. His mother was Mary (nee McHugh) born Keellogues, County Mayo, Ireland in 1848 and died in 1922. No marriage has been found for them. On the 1891 Census, Thomas Evans Snr gives his place of birth as Wales.

Their other children were; Mary, born in Leeds in 1877, Kate, born in Leeds in 1878 and Ellen, born in Dewsbury in 1881.

On the 1881 Census, there is the name of Anna (sic) Hall, age 9, born in Leeds and recorded as step-daughter. In 1891 she is recorded as Hannah Evans. When she married in 1895 her surname is given as Hannah McHugh.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Fearnley Street, Dewsbury, in 1891 and 1901 at 29, Manor Road, Westtown, Dewsbury, On the 1911 Census his mother is named then crossed out of the address of 61, Thornhill Road, Westtown; His widowed sister Mary Pickard is recorded as the head.

Thomas was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus Church School and attended the church. On the 1911 census, he was a boarder at 21, Park Row, Normanton and worked as an 'Iron Man' Operator at the Normanton Colliery; this was the name given to a hydraulic coal cutting machine. He had also worked for the Yorkshire (Heavy Woollen) Electric Tramways Company.

He enlisted in 1916, serving as Private 202138 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front later that same year. He suffered gas poisoning on 22nd July 1917 when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas on the Belgian coast around Nieuport and died in the 2nd Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport on the French coast on 26th July 1917. He was buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His mother had made arrangements to travel to France to visit him, but then she was informed in a telegram of his death, and invited – as a postscript - to *cancel your visit to him*.

Le Treport is a small seaport 25 kilometres north-east of Dieppe. The Cemetery is 1.5 kilometres south of the town. During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals (the 3rd, 16th and 2nd Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7th Canadian, 47th and 16th USA General Hospitals arrived later, but all of the hospitals had closed by March 1919. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Thomas Evans

202138, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 26 July 1917 Age 33

Son of Thomas and Mary Evans, of West Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

