



Thomas Marshall Swift

1898 – 1917

Thomas was born in Batley in 1898. His father was also Thomas Swift, a Joiner born in Dewsbury in 1862 and died in 1929. His mother was Clara Angelina (nee Marshall, birth record spelt as *Machell*) born in 1867 and died in 1941. They were married in Dewsbury in 1894.

Their other children were; Samuel Machell, born in 1894 and joined the Territorial Force of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1912, but was discharged in August 1914 as being medically unfit for embarkation, Thomas Milner, born in 1896 and died in 1897, Sarah Ellen, born in 1899 and Walter Edward, born in 1907.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 17, Warwick Road, Batley, in 1911 at 14, Warwick Mount, Batley and later at 24, Danube Grove, Gelderd Road, New Wortley, Leeds.

Thomas was a single man who in 1911 worked as an Errand Boy.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in 1916 and initially joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry as Private 26552 and was later transferred to the 8th Battalion Suffolk Regiment as Private 41261. He was killed in action at Messines Wood near Ypres on the First Day of the Battle of Passchendaele on 31st July 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave.

Thomas is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Thomas Marshall Swift

41261, 8th Bn., Suffolk Regiment who died on 31 July 1917 Age 19

Son of Thomas and Clara Angelene Swift, of 24, Danube Grove, Gelderd Rd., New Wortley, Leeds.

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

