

1897 – 1917

Tom was born in Dewsbury on 4th January 1897 and was baptised in St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green on 17th January 1900. His father was Alfred Hunt Chatwood, a Boilermaker's Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1865 and died in 1936. His mother was Hannah (nee Milnes) born in Dewsbury in 1863 and died in 1931. They were married on 5th April 1890 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

Their other children were; Herbert, born in 1890, William, born in 1892 and was killed in action 25th November 1917, Frank, born in 1895, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1899 and died in 1901, Mary Ann, born in 1902 and Allen, born in 1905.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 42, Princess Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 34, Back Lawson Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 36, Kilburn's Yard, Flatts, Dewsbury.

Tom was a single man who was employed at Kilner Brothers Glass Bottle Works.

He enlisted in December 1914 serving as Private 25458 in the 7th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment and was sent to The Western Front in November 1916. He was killed in action on 12th May 1917 during the Battle of Arras. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial Tom was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

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



