Thomas Bennett
1882 - 1917

Thomas was born in Heckmondwike in 1882. His father was Joseph Bennett, a Pawnbroker born in Dewsbury in 1845 and died in 1911. His mother was Mary (nee Gunn) born in Normanton, Nottinghamshire in 1854 and died in 1932. They were married on 24th March 1874 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall.

Their other children were; Sidney, born in 1876 and served in World War 1, Frances Annie, born in 1878, Edith, born in 1884, Luther, born in 1886 and served in World War 1, Mary, born in 1889, Joseph, born in 1890 and was killed in action 20th November 1917, Adam, born in 1893 and died in 1917, Hilda, born in 1894 and Eve, born in 1897.

On the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census Records they lived at 4, Cemetery Road, Heckmondwike next door to their pawnbroking business.

Thomas was educated at Battye Street School, Heckmondwike and attended the Moravian Chapel. He worked for his father as a Pawnbroker in the family business and was married in 1908 to Ada Spivey (born in 1881 and died in 1948). In 1911 they lived at 12, Grosvenor Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury and later at 15, Mill Street West, Savile Town; they had a daughter, Clarice, born in 1909. Ada later lived at 67, Savile Road, Savile Town.

He enlisted in November 1916 serving as Private 20081 in the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. He trained at Coterham and Windsor and was sent to the Western Front on 8th July 1917. He was killed in action by a shell burst during the Battle of Poelcapelle which was part of the Battle of Passchendaele on 9th October 1917 whilst bandaging a wounded soldier when he was acting as a stretcher bearer. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

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

In Memory of

Private

Thomas Bennett

20081, 2nd Bn., Coldstream Guards who died on 09 October 1917 Age 35

Son of the late Joseph and Mary Bennett, of 4, Cemetery Road, Heckmondwike, Yorks; husband of Ada Bennett, of 67, Savile Road, Savile Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Tyne Cot Memorial

**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**