



## **George Cobb** **1896 - 1917**

George was born in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire in 1896, his birth name was registered as *George Thomas Whattam*. His father was George Thomas Cobb, a confectioner and shop keeper born in Spilsby, Lincolnshire in 1848 and died in 1922. His mother was Mary Whattam (nee Holland) who was born in Scotter, Lincolnshire in 1860 and died in 1924. No marriage record has been found for George T. Cobb Snr. and Mary Whattam.

Mary Holland was married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1887 to Thomas Whattam (born in Glanford Brigg, Lincolnshire in 1855 and died in 1893). They had five children; Eva Whattam, born in 1888 and died in 1889, Ivy Whattam, born in 1889 and died in 1890, Ruby Whattam, born in 1890, Verona Whattam, born in 1892 and died in 1893 and Cyril Whattam, born in 1893 and died in 1904.

George Snr. was previously married in 1871 to Charlotte Bellamy (born in Yaxley, Huntingdonshire in 1853 and died in 1896). They did not have any children.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census records the family lived at 76, High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury.

George was an only child and a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School. He worked as an Auxillary Postman in Dewsbury.

He enlisted in January 1915 serving as Private 35856 in the Army Service Corps and was sent to the Western Front on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1915 whilst attached to the Royal Field Artillery. In August 1916 he was wounded in the shoulder and hospitalised for two months. He came home on leave in June 1917 and on his return to the Front he was transferred into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Rifles as Rifleman 47422. He was killed in action on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1917 in the aftermath of the Battle of Passchendaele, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

George is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of  
Rifleman

## George Cobb

47422, 1st Bn., Royal Irish Rifles who died on 30 November 1917

Remembered with Honour  
Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

