



William Thompson

1885 – 1917

William was born in Knottingley on 22nd January 1885 and was baptised on 15th February 1885 at Christ Church, East Knottingley. His father was William Thompson, a glass blower born in Knottingley in 1855. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Thompson) born in Knottingley in 1863. They were married on 7th September 1882 at Christ Church, East Knottingley.

Their other children were: Tom, born in Knottingley in 1883, Sarah Martha, born in Knottingley in 1887, Elizabeth Ann, born in Thornhill Lees in 1889, Ethel, born in Thornhill Lees in 1892, Hannah Bathea, born in Thornhill Lees in 1894, Elsie, born in Thornhill Lees in 1896, Walter, born in Thornhill Lees in 1899, Gladys Mary, born in Thornhill Lees in 1901, Joseph Perfect, born in Thornhill Lees in 1903, Alice, born in Thornhill Lees in 1906, and Ida, born in Thornhill Lees in 1908.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 and 1911 at 5, Morton Street, Thornhill Lees.

William was educated at Thornhill Council School and attended Thornhill Lees Independent Methodist Chapel. He was employed as a flint-hand at Kilner Brothers Glass Works. He was married to Harriet Senior (born in 1885 and died in 1959) on 15th June 1907 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. They had four children; Mary, born in 1908, Lilian, born in 1910, Edmund, born in 1912 and Edith Alice, born in 1915. They lived at 4, Beatson Street, Thornhill Lees.

Harriet was remarried to a widower George Swallow (born in 1893 and died in 1944) on 1st November 1919 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill. They lived at 54, Calms Terrace, Thornhill.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in February 1915 serving as as Private 15412 in the 8th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). He was sent to the Dardanelles (Gallipoli) on 17th September of the same year and was transferred to Egypt where he caught fever, for which he came home to a Manchester hospital. He then returned to the Western Front where he was killed in action on 11th August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, 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.

William 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 at Holy Innocents Parish Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

William Thompson

15412, 8th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 11 August 1917

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

THOMPSON W.