



Thomas Borres

1897-1918

Thomas was born in Dewsbury on 23rd May 1897. His birth record spells his surname as *Borras*, this misspelling occurs for other members of his family. His father was also Thomas Borres, a Shoeing Blacksmith born in Dunnington near York in 1862. His mother was Sarah (nee Booth) born in West Melton near Rotherham in 1870. They were married in Dewsbury in 1893 (surname recorded as *Borras*).

Their other children were; John Henry, born in Jump near Wombwell in 1891 and Lily, born in Ravensthorpe in 1893 (surname recorded as *Borras*).

On the 1901 Census the family are living at 14, Union Street, Dewsbury (recorded as *Borras*) and in 1911 at 28, Sharp Street, Dewsbury.

Thomas was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Cloth Server.

He enlisted in the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve on 25th October 1915 giving his year of birth as 1896 and his occupation as a Blacksmith; he served in the Tyneside Battalion as Able Seaman Z/8003. He was posted to H.M.S. "Victory I", a training vessel based at Portsmouth on 5th Feb 1916 but a day later he was posted aboard H.M.S. "Malaya" until 7th September 1916, by which time he had taken part in the Great Sea Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916 during which the ship was hit eight times and took major damage and heavy crew casualties. A total of 65 men died in the battle or later of their injuries. He was returned to H.M.S. "Victory I" until 5th October 1916 when he was discharged with a severe hernia sustained in action. He was awarded the Silver War Badge on 19th February 1917 which covered the duration of the war. He died at his home at Sharp Street on 13th September 1918 from an acute obstruction of the bowel and heart failure (surname recorded as *Borras*) and was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His private memorial headstone states that he died from the effects of gas received in the Battle of Jutland; this is incorrect, as no gas was used during this conflict.

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

For some unknown reason he was never officially commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as a war casualty. On 8th January 2016 his naval records and death certificate were sent by Dewsbury Sacrifices to the Naval Historical Branch; on 31st March 2016 he was added to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records.

In Memory of
Able Seaman

Thomas Borres

Tyneside Z/8003, H.M.S. "Victory I", Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 13 September 1918 Age
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Son of Thomas Borres of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

