



Thomas Gibson

1879-1918

Thomas was born in Dewsbury on 4th December 1879. His father was George Gibson, a Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1838 and died in 1908. His mother was Peace (nee Sykes) born in Earlsheaton in 1841 and died in 1906. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 1st December 1861.

Their other children were; Sykes, born in 1862. Charlotte, born in 1865, Cardigan, born in 1868, Fred, born in 1870, Gertrude, born in 1875, Ernest, born in 1877 and Benjamin, born in 1882.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Longcauseway, Dewsbury, in 1891 and 1901 at 32, Kiln Road, Dewsbury.

Thomas was educated at Dewsbury Parish Day School. For 11 years he worked as a Masons Labourer for Mr. Joe Crossley, Contractor but for two years prior to enlisting he was a Newspaper Seller for Mr. William Allatt at the bottom of Bond Street, Dewsbury; he was described in his obituary as "*one of the best known men in Dewsbury*". After converting to Catholicism he was married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 13th April 1903 to Margaret Ellen Ford (born in 1881 in Castlerea, County Roscommon, Ireland and died in 1960). They had three children; Percy born in 1904, Nora, born in 1907 and died in 1911 and Thomas, born in 1915. They lived at 20, Nowell's Yard, off Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury and later at 28, Granville Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in 1916 into the 2nd/5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) with the Service Number 6128, later serving as Rifleman 242478 in the 2nd/6th, then finally the 8th Battalion. He was killed in action in France near Cambrai on 27th September 1918 and was buried in Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres, Nord, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Flesquieres is a village approximately 5 kilometres south-west of Cambrai and about 5 kilometres south of the main road from Cambrai to Bapaume. The Bois d'Orival is a small wood on the road from Flesquieres to Fontaine-Notre Dame, cleared by the 2nd Grenadier Guards on the 27th September 1918. The Cemetery was begun in November 1917, during the Battle of Cambrai; used again in September-October 1918; and enlarged in 1930 by the transfer of graves from nearby cemeteries. There are now nearly 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

Thomas 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 in Our Lady and St Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Rifleman

T Gibson

242478, 8th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 27 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

