



Thomas Herbert Potter

1894-1918

Thomas was born in Dewsbury in 1894. His father was Herbert Thomas Potter, a cloth weaver and later a painter and decorator born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1948. His mother was Martha (nee Powell) born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1955. They were married on 8th January 1891 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Harry, born in Dewsbury in 1898 and died in 1898, Sarah, born in Bridlington in 1903, James Henry, born in Beverley in 1907 and Emily, born in Dewsbury in 1910 and died in 1910. The family moved to live in Bridlington for around 18 years before returning to the Dewsbury Area.

On the 1901 Census the family were recorded as visitors at the home of Martha's parents at 20, Victoria Road, Dewsbury, in 1911 Martha and her two surviving children are living at 72, High Street, Hanging Heaton, Herbert is living with his parents at 72, Ings Lane, Bridlington. On their return to the area they lived at Healey Lane, Batley and later at 75, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Thomas was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Weft Carrier for Messrs Robert Brearley and Sons, Queen Street Mills, Dewsbury. He was a keen scout and played a prominent part in the formation of the 2nd Heckmondwike Troup.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in February 1915 serving as Private 18254 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Western Front on 11th November 1915. Towards the end of 1916 he was invalided home with fever. After returning to the front in June 1917 he received a severe scalp wound and was sent back to England. In October 1917 he went out to Egypt but then returned to the Western Front in May 1918. He was killed in action in France on 1st October 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the straight main road from Arras to Cambrai. The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road. It bears the names of over 9,000 men of the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; who fell in the period from 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing.

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

In Memory of
Private

Thomas Herbert Potter

18254, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 01 October 1918 Age 24

Son of Herbert Thomas and Martha Potter, of 75, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

