



Thomas William Medley

1892 – 1915

Thomas was born in Dewsbury in 1892. His parents were Albert Edward Medley born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1936. His mother was Mary Maria (nee Herring) born in Handsworth, Sheffield in 1869. They were married at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury on 25th December 1891.

On the 1901 Census Mary is living as a servant at 70, Chapel Hill, Huddersfield, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sykes, a General Outfitter. In 1911 she is living at 252, Victoria Dock Road, Victoria Docks Custom House, London. Her husband is recorded as Patrick Shepard; a Hairdresser aged 53 born in North Carolina, USA. They had two children; Lilian Gertrude Shepard, born in 1908 and Joseph Reginald Shepard, born in 1910. They state they had been married for 8 years.

The 1900 Census shows Thomas is living with his maternal grandparents William and Jane Herring at 49, Upper Camroyd Street, Batley Carr. William died in 1932 aged 86 and Jane died in 1922 aged 75. On the 1911 Census he is serving aboard HMS "Pandora".

Thomas was a single man who was educated at Carlton Street Council School and attended the Eastborough and Centenary Wesleyan Sunday Schools. He gave his occupation upon enlistment as a Butcher's Assistant.

He joined the Royal Navy on 15th January 1910 giving his date and place of birth as 19th October 1891 in Guisborough, Yorkshire. He served as K/5229 Stoker Class II rising to the rank of Stoker Class I. He began his naval service on HMS Vivid II, not a ship but the name of the Royal Naval Barracks at Devonport where he was stationed three times; he served at sea aboard HMS "Pandora" and HMS "Leander" before joining HMS "Dublin" in August 1913. He was killed on 9th June 1915 in the Adriatic, when the "Dublin" was torpedoed by the Austro-Hungarian Navy submarine U-4. He was buried in Brindisi Communal Cemetery in Italy with 13 of his fellow crew, but in 1981 their remains were reinterred in Bari War Cemetery, Puglia, Italy. Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death was reported in the local newspapers, where a letter to his grandparents appeared from J.D. Kelly. He wrote: *"I have just received your letter asking for news of your grandson. I am very sorry to tell you that I can only confirm the intelligence sent to you by the Admiralty. He died as a brave man at his post. He was killed instantaneously, so, happily, can have suffered no pain. I offer you my deepest sympathy in your sorrow. Your grandson was esteemed by his officers and shipmates. He was buried in a beautiful cemetery on the shores of the Mediterranean, and his funeral was one of the most impressive and the most largely attended that I have ever seen, and the wreaths and flowers were beautiful beyond belief."*

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

In Memory of
Stoker 1st Class

Thomas William Medley

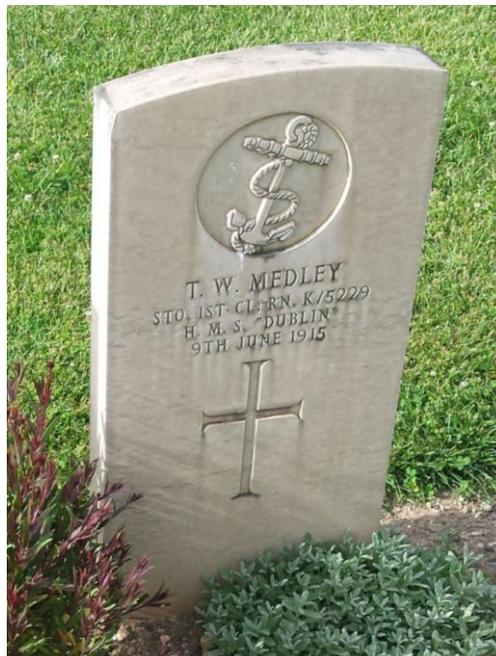
K/5229, H.M.S. "Dublin.", Royal Navy who died on 09 June 1915

Son of Mrs. M. M. Medley, of 252, Victoria Dock, Custom House, London.

Remembered with Honour
Bari War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British Wargraves Website of Michael McCann.