



Thomas Arthur Bedford

1891-1918

Thomas was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was Henry Bedford, a Blacksmith born in Clayton West near Huddersfield in 1850 and died in 1924. His mother was Eliza (nee Shaw) born in Soothill, Batley in 1855, and died in 1926. They were married on 28th December 1890. Thomas was their only child.

On the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census Records they lived at 3, Clarence Place, Dewsbury.

Henry was previously married to Ellen Moody (born in Skelmanthorpe near Huddersfield in 1849 and died in 1885) at St. Augustine's Church, Scissett near Huddersfield on 26th December 1869, they had three children; Wilson, born in 1871 and died in 1871, Elizabeth, born in 1873 and Laura, born in 1875. In 1881 they lived at Granville Street, Dewsbury.

Thomas worked as a Commercial Clerk and was married to Clara HERRIS (born in 1887 and died in 1976) on 22nd May 1915 at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wellington Road, Dewsbury; they had a daughter, Madge, born in Gomersal on 20th May 1916 and lived at 2, The Hollies, Huddersfield Road, Birstall; Clara later moved to live at Rawdon Villa, 65, St. Ann's Road, Rotherham.

He was a reservist from 9th December 1915 until 3rd September 1916 when he was posted to the 10th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) serving as Private 29313 and was sent to the Western Front on 7th December 1916. He received a commission on 29th May 1918 and was posted as a Second Lieutenant to the 9th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment. He was killed in action around the French/Belgian border on 4th November 1918 and was buried in Eth Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Eth is a small village next to the Belgian border, approximately 48 Kms north-east of Cambrai, and 16 Kms south-east of the town of Valenciennes. The communal cemetery is located on the Rue du Cimetiere in the village. Eth Communal Cemetery contains nine Commonwealth burials of the First World War, one of which is unidentified.

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
Second Lieutenant

Thomas Arthur Bedford

9th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 04 November 1918 Age 28

Son of Henry and Eliza Bedford, of Dewsbury; husband of Clara Bedford, of Rawdon Villa, 65, St. Ann's Rd., Rotherham.

Remembered with Honour
Eth Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.