



Thomas Thornton

1892-1918

Thomas was born in Goole, Yorkshire on 6th February 1892. His father was Joshua Sykes Thornton, a Wagon Examiner with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway born in Sheffield in 1861 and died in 1924. His mother was Sarah (nee Halstead) born in Thornhill in 1865 and died in 1937. They were married in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 31st October 1888.

Their other children were; James Hartley, born in Holbeck, Leeds in 1888, all the rest were born in Goole; Mary Eliza, born in 1891 and died in 1891, Rufus, born in 1893, Walter, born in 1895, Janet, born in 1896, Emma, born in 1898 and died in 1898, William, born in 1899, Harry, born in 1903, Alice, born in 1906 and Ezra, born in 1908 and died in 1908.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 71, Gordon Street, Hook, near Goole, in 1901 and 1911 at 57, Henry Street, Airmyn, near Goole.

Thomas had lived with his maternal grandmother Eliza Halstead and her family from being 12 months old and was educated at Thornhill Church of England School. In 1901 they lived at 3, Town Street, Thornhill; Eliza died in 1910 aged 71. On the 1911 Census he is living with his uncle and aunt, Thomas and Jane Halstead at 23, Crossgate, The Town, Thornhill and worked at Ingham's Colliery in Thornhill as a Hewer below ground. Jane Halstead died in 1914 aged 45 and her brother Thomas in 1930 aged 59.

He had enlisted in September 1913 prior to the outbreak of war, serving as Driver and later as Bombardier 74047 in the 118th Battery, 130th Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery. Sent to the Western Front on 16th August 1914, he took part in the retreat from Mons and the Battles of the Aisne, Marne, Ypres and La Bassee; after seeing service on other fronts he was posted to the Salonika Campaign, being twice recommended for good work under heavy fire. Having served throughout the war without injury, he was expected home on leave in December 1918, but he died of influenza and pneumonia (Spanish Flu) on 17th December 1918 in the 2nd/3rd Northumberland Field Hospital at Guvesne (now Assiros), some 24Kms from Salonika. He was buried in a cemetery in Guvesne but in 1921 he was reburied in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Thomas was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Mikra British Cemetery is situated in the Municipality of Kalamaria in the city of Thessaloniki. The Cemetery contains 1,810 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill and on the Goole War Memorial.

In Memory of
Bombardier

Thomas Thornton

74047, 118th Bty. 130th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 17 December 1918 Age 28

Son of Sykes and Sarah Thornton, of 57, Henry St., Goole, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.