



## **Thomas Greenwood Lacy Speight**

### **1895-1918**

Thomas was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was Thomas William Speight, an Architect born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1920. His mother was Mary Jane (nee Barker) born in Worcester in 1868 and died in 1935. They were married on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1892 at Crossbank Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Carlinghow, Batley. Thomas's mother's maiden name was Lacy, hence the middle-name shared by several of the children.

Their other children were; Nelly, born in 1891 and died in 1892, Dorothy, born in 1892 and died in 1893, George Lacy, born in 1893 and died of wounds on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1916, Lilian Lacy, born in 1897, Travis Lacy Lawrence, born in 1900 and died in 1900 and May, born in 1907 and died in 1907.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Lacy's Yard, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury but in 1911 Mary is living with three of her children at 6, Central Street, Dewsbury, her husband Thomas William is living as a boarder at an address in Heysham, Lancashire, and his occupation is shown as a boot repairer but in wartime he worked at the National Shell Factory in Barnbow, Leeds. Their later address was 1, Park View, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury.

Thomas was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School; he later worked at Hodgson's Timber Works, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in 1915 serving as Private 240910 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) being wounded on two occasions on the Western Front. He was killed in action in France on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1918 and was buried in Gonnehem British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Gonnehem is a village about 7 kilometres north-west of Bethune and 7 kilometres east of Lillers. The cemetery was begun in the middle of April 1918, when the German front line came within 3.2 kilometres of the village. It was made by fighting units and by the burial officers of the XIII Corps and the 4th Division, and used until September. After the Armistice graves were brought in from the battlefields east of Gonnehem. The Cemetery contains 200 First World War burials.

Thomas is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *T.G.L. Speight* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

## Thomas Greenwood Lacy Speight

240910, 2nd Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 21 July 1918 Age 22

Son of Thomas William and Mary Jane Speight, of 1, Park View, Staincliffe Rd., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Gonnehem British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.