



Thomas Hirst

1893 – 1916

Thomas was born in Dewsbury in 1893. His father was Henry Hirst, a Flock and Wool Merchant born in Dewsbury in 1862 and died in 1904. His mother was Clara (nee Nicholson) born in Castleford in 1863. They were married in 1883.

Their other children were; Alice, born in 1883, William Henry, born in 1885, Florence, born in 1887, Sarah, born in 1889, Margaret Ellen, born in 1894 and Arthur, born in 1897.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at Hirst Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Longlands Road, Staincliffe, Batley, and in 1911 at Gathorne Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds. On the Dewsbury Roll of Honour published in 1923-24 his address is given as Willans House, Willans Road, Dewsbury.

Thomas was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Clerk for a wholesale grocers.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 26530. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

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 Hirst

26530, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

