



Thomas Isaac 1895 - 1917

Thomas was born in Worsel Street, Bolton, Lancashire on 16th November 1895. His father was John Isaac, a coal miner born in Pandysa, Denbighshire, Wales in 1858. His mother was Sarah (nee Smethurst) born in Farnworth near Bolton in 1857 and died in 1922. They were married in 1875 in Bolton. There were many spelling variations of the surname including *Isaacs*, *Issac* and *Issacs*. No accurate death record has been found for John.

Their other children were; William, born in Farnworth in 1875, John Edward, born in Farnworth in 1878 and served in World War 1, Sarah Jane, born in Farnworth in 1880, Richard, born in Farnworth in 1882 and died in 1916, Hugh, born in Farnworth in 1884 and served in World War 1, Joseph, born in Farnworth in 1885, Ruth, born in Darcy Lever, Bolton in 1887 and died in 1919, Hannah, born in Great Lever, Bolton in 1889, James, born in Ossett in 1891 and served in World War 1, Fred, born in Ossett in 1898 and served in World War 1 and Harold Handley, born in Bolton in 1900. Hannah became known as Annie Isaac and was adopted by Samuel Wadsworth who was the publican at The Market House, Church Street, Dewsbury; on the 1901 Census she is listed as “adopted daughter”.

On the 1901 Census Sarah was living with three of her children; James, Fred and Harold in the Union Workhouse, Beech Towers, Dewsbury. She was married to Joseph Lever (born in 1845 and died in 1920) at St. John the Evangelist Church, Farnworth on 13th October 1906 (her surname is registered as *Isaacs*). On the 1911 Census she was living at 60, Darley Street, Farnworth; Fred, Harold, John Edward and his wife Mary were also living there.

Thomas was a single man who according to the report of his death in the Dewsbury Reporter on 17th February 1917 was raised in the Cottage Homes on Healds Road and was educated at Dewsbury Moor Council School and later at Eastborough Council School. He worked as a Piecer at Fenton’s Mill in Batley Carr. He lived with Joseph and Mary Ann Peaker of Back Lawson Street, Westtown. On the 1901 Census he is recorded as *Thomas I Peaker* (son) and on the 1911 Census as *Thomas Isaac* (boarder, but initially stated as adopted son which was then crossed out).

He enlisted in Dewsbury in August 1914 serving as Private 20288 in the 1st Battalion King’s Own Scottish Borderers. On 6th November 1915 after 10 weeks training in Scotland he was sent to fight in the Dardanelles Campaign (Gallipoli) where his battalion had suffered heavy losses throughout. On 8th January 1916 they were withdrawn and in April 1916 they were posted to the Western Front at Beaumont-Hamel in France where he was wounded in July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He died on 7th February 1917 in the 34th Casualty Clearing Station at Meaulte near Albert after being seriously wounded again. He was buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme, France. Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His records spell his surname four different ways; *Isaac*, *Isaacs*, *Issac* and *Issacs*. His headstone had shown his surname as *Issacs* but was amended by the CWGC after they were made aware of his true name in June 2021.

Meaulte is a village just south of Albert. In September 1916, the 34th and 2nd/2nd London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at this point, known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields. They were moved in April 1917 and, except for a few burials in August and September 1918, the cemetery was closed. Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 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 on the Memorial Plaque in Eastborough Council School (his surname is spelt *Isaacs* and his Regiment as the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry).

In Memory of

Private

Thomas Isaac

20288, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 07 February 1917

Remembered with Honour

Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

