



Thomas (Tom) Brown
(Served as Thomas Smith)
1891 - 1917

Thomas (Tom) Brown was born in Winlaton, County Durham on 22nd October 1891 and baptised on 28th November 1891 at St. Mary and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Stella, Blaydon-on-Tyne, County Durham. His father was also Thomas Brown, a Glass Bottle Hand born in Blaydon-on-Tyne in 1861 and died in 1942. His mother was Margaret Allan (or Allen) born in Winlaton in 1861 and died in 1897. They were married on 26th November 1887 at St. Mary and St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Their other children were; Isabella, born in Winlaton in 1888, John Andrew, born in Blaydon-on-Tyne in 1890 and served in World War 1 and Sabina, born in Winlaton in 1895.

On the 1891 Census the family are living in Marsh End, Knottingley, Yorkshire. On the 1901 Census Tom Jr. and his brother John have not been found but Isabella and Sabina are living at Corner Row, Winlaton with the family of their maternal grandparents, Patrick and Bridget Allan. Their father Thomas Brown Sr. is living as a boarder at the home of Mr. Richard Power at 21, Wharfe Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury, his occupation is shown as a glass bottle maker. In 1911 he is living in Mexborough, Yorkshire, but by the time his son's death was announced in the local newspapers he was living at Kertland Terrace, Savile Town and later at 5, Milton Terrace, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury. He died in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1942.

According to his obituary in the Dewsbury Reporter on 9th March 1918, Tom Jr. had been brought up by the Power family from the age of seven. He was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church Day School and attended St. Mary's Church and Sunday school in Savile Town. On the 1911 Census he is a boarder with the same Power family who had moved to 28, Wharfe Street. He was unmarried and his occupation was a Cloth Raiser for Mr. George Ellis and Company for whom he had worked from the age of 13. He must however have kept in contact with his sister Sabina (now Mrs. John Deacon) as she was named as his sole beneficiary in his Will and Soldier's Effects.

He enlisted in Liverpool at the beginning of March 1916 under the name of Thomas Smith into the 13th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment serving as Private 38465. He was wounded in July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme and spent four months at home convalescing in hospital at St. Albans. On 13th November 1917 he was wounded again near Bapaume and died in a field hospital at Mory on 12th December 1917, he was buried in Mory Abbey Military Cemetery, Mory, Pas-de-Calais, France. Tom was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Mory is a village between Arras and Bapaume, and about 2 Kms east of the village of Ervillers. Mory village was occupied by Commonwealth troops in the middle of March 1917. It was lost after obstinate defence by the 40th and 34th Division a year later and recaptured towards the end of the following August, after severe fighting, by the 62nd (West Riding) and Guards Divisions. The Commonwealth plots were begun at the end of March 1917 and carried on by fighting units until March 1918, and again in August and September 1918. Graves were added after the Armistice from the battlefields between St. Leger and Bapaume and from nearby smaller cemeteries. Mory Abbey Military Cemetery contains 619 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 101 are unidentified.

Tom is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

His true name was never recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but after pension records became available, Dewsbury Sacrifices presented the case to the CWGC in April 2021 and on 20th May 2021 the records were amended and in 2022 his headstone was replaced.

In Memory of
Private
Thomas Brown

38465, 13th Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on 12 December 1917

(SERVED AS THOMAS SMITH)

Remembered with Honour
Mory Abbey Military Cemetery, Mory



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

