



Thomas William Chapman

1879 – 1917

Thomas was born in Norwich in 1879. His father was also Thomas William Chapman, a Cordwainer born in New Catton, Norwich in 1849 and died in 1932. His mother was Amelia Sarah (née Boulton) born in Beccles, Suffolk in 1854 and died in 1931. They were married in 1878.

Sarah had a son, William George Boulton, born in 1874. He served pre-war in the Royal Garrison Artillery for 7 years.

Their other children were: Philip Benjamin, born in 1881 and was killed in action 26th September 1915 at the Battle of Loos, Beatrice Maud, born in 1884, Albert James, born in 1885 and was drowned at sea 17th November 1915, Alfred Arthur (I), born in 1887 and died in 1889, Amelia Susannah (I), born in 1890 and died in 1892, Alfred Arthur (II), born in 1892 and served in World War 1, Amelia Susannah (II), born in 1894 and Charles Harry, born in 1897.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 24, Angel Road, St. Clement, Norwich, in 1901 at 3, Blakeley's Yard, St. Mary Coslany, Norwich, in 1911 at 3, Muspole Street, Norwich and later at 1, Long Row, New Catton.

Thomas joined the army in 1899 and served as a regular soldier for seven years and afterwards he became a reservist. In 1901 he was recorded as a Private in the Militia at Colchester Garrison, using only the name *William*. In 1911 Thomas was a Police Constable, living with his family at 44, King Street, Chester Road, Hulme, Manchester. He was married in 1906 to Flora Anderson (born in Manchester in 1877 and died in 1975) they had two children; Thomas William, born in 1907 and Arthur Philip, born in 1909. They moved to live at 23, John Street, Ravensthorpe, where he worked as a Stoker at the Mirfield Gas Works in North Road, Ravensthorpe alongside his brothers Philip Chapman and William George Boulton; his younger brother Albert James, (known as *Jim*) later worked for the Yorkshire Electric Power Station in Thornhill.

He served as Gunner 13451 in the 14th Brigade Ammunition Column, Royal Horse Artillery having being called up as a reservist on 4th August 1914 and was sent to the Western Front in 1916. He died in the 48th Casualty Clearing Station at Bray-Sur-Somme, France on 14th January 1917 from wounds sustained during an attack on Munich Trench, just south of Serre. He is buried in Bray Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bray-sur-Somme is a village about 9 kilometres south-east of Albert. Bray Military Cemetery is north of the village, a little west of the road to Maricourt. The cemetery was begun in April 1916 by fighting units and field ambulances. In September 1916, the front line having been pushed further east, it was used by the XIV Corps Main Dressing Station and in 1917, the 5th, 38th and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations came forward and used it. In March 1918, the village and the cemetery fell into German hands, but were retaken by the 40th Australian Battalion on 24th August, and during the next few days the cemetery was used again. After the Armistice graves were brought in from the battlefields immediately north and south of the village and in 1924, further isolated graves were brought in. Bray Military Cemetery now contains 874 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 127 of which are unidentified.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Gunner

T W Chapman

13451, 14th Bde. Ammunition Col., Royal Horse Artillery who died on 14 January 1917

Remembered with Honour

Bray Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

