



Thomas (Tom) Lund

1898 – 1917

Tom was born in Dewsbury on 10th November 1897 and was baptised in St. Matthew's Church, Westtown, Dewsbury on 26th January 1898. His father was Charles Lund, born in Thorpe Audlin near Pontefract in 1877 and died in 1953. His mother was Rhoda (nee Johnson) born in Leeds in 1875 and died in 1929. They were married on 20th November 1893 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Rhoda was the daughter of the landlord of the Royal Oak Inn, Dewsbury, an ancient building which stood at the corner of Church Street and South Street. This pub is probably where they met, as in 1891 Charles was the 'Boots' there, (a person employed in a hotel to clean boots and shoes, carry luggage, and perform other menial tasks) He became a shopkeeper, variously described as fishmonger, fruiterer and greengrocer, with premises at 84, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury but in 1901 was the landlord of the Ravenswharfe Hotel on Scout Hill. By 1911 Charles had changed his occupation again and was recorded as a dealer in old bagging, working on his own account with Tom as his assistant. They lived at 163, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury. In 1921 Charles was a farmer at Cawley Hill Farm, Heckmondwike.

Their other children were; Harold, born in 1894 and died in 1894, William, born in 1904, Jenny, born in 1908 and Charles, born in 1911.

Tom was a single man who was educated at St. Matthews Day School and attended the Church where he was a chorister. He worked as a butcher's assistant prior to enlistment.

He attested in August 1916 serving as Private 34186 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in April 1917. He was killed in action in Belgium on 27th June 1917 whilst serving in the Nieuport (now Nieuwpoort) sector. In August 1919 he was reburied in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Tom was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal although there is a note on the War Office records that the latter was returned following the Armistice.

Due to what was probably an administrative error, Tom's name also appears on the Nieuport Memorial which commemorates 552 British officers and men who were killed in Allied operations on the Belgian coast during the First World War and have no known grave. Although his name has been removed from the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for this memorial, his name still appears on Panel 14.

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery is located 2 Kms east of Nieuwpoort on the road which leads from Nieuwpoort to Sint Joris. From June to November 1917, Commonwealth Forces held the front line in Belgium from St. Georges (now Sint Joris), near Ramscappelle, to the sea. The Cemetery started with Plot 1 in the middle of the graveyard. Most of the interments were made in July and August 1917. The burial ground was substantially enlarged after the Armistice of November 1918. At that time, the remains of the deceased from the battlefields and a number of smaller cemeteries were brought to Ramscappelle for interment. There are now 841 Commonwealth casualties of World War I who are either buried or commemorated in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery. Of those, 312 are unidentified.

Tom is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park, in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial Plaque in the porch of the former St. Matthews Church, Westtown, Dewsbury and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of
Private
T Lund

34186, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 June 1917

Remembered with Honour
Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

