



Tom Gough

1892 - 1917

Tom was born in Roecliffe near Harrogate in 1892. His father was David Gough, a labourer in a tile works and later a railway soil shifter born in Hartshead, Liversedge in 1865 and died in 1909. His mother was Mary (nee Attack) born in Heckmondwike in 1860 and died in 1932. They were married on 29th August 1885 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall.

Their other children were: Amy, born in Liversedge in 1886, John Samuel, born in Liversedge in 1889, Edward, born in Roecliffe in 1891 and died in 1891, Agnes, born in Roecliffe in 1894, Alice, born in Roecliffe in 1896, Noel, born in Liversedge in 1899 and died in 1900 and Isabel, born in Dewsbury in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at Roecliffe, in 1901 at New Street, Rawfolds, Liversedge and in 1911 at 5, Baptist Street, Staincliffe, Batley.

Tom had worked as a dyer's labourer at Sharps, Orchard Dyeworks, Heckmondwike but at the time of his marriage, he was a Private in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was married to Edith Annie Clegg (born in 1889 and died in 1977) at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 30th January 1915. They lived at 77, Carr Lodge, Low Road, Dewsbury Moor and had a son, Willoughby, born in 1915 and died in 1915.

He enlisted early after the outbreak of war in August 1914 serving as Private 11749 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 22nd July 1915 but was invalided home in October 1916 having been gassed and also suffering from trench feet. After a long spell of treatment in hospital, he returned to the front on 12th September 1917 and was killed 17 days later when a shell fell on his fatigue party behind the lines on 29th September 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. He was buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Tom was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In June 1917, Commonwealth forces relieved French forces on 6 kilometres of front line from the sea to a point south of Nieupoort (now Nieuwpoort), and held this sector for six months. Coxyde (now Koksijde) was about 10 kilometres behind the front line. The village was used for rest billets and was occasionally shelled, but the cemetery, which had been started by French troops, was found to be reasonably safe. It became the most important of the Commonwealth cemeteries on the Belgian coast and was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line. The cemetery now contains 1,507 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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

In Memory of

Private

Tom Gough

11749, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 29 September 1917 Age 25

Husband of Edith Annie Gough, of 77, Carr Lodge, Low Rd., Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Coxyde Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

