



Thomas Hemingway

1898-1918

Thomas was born in Batley on 17th April 1898. His father was Arthur Hemingway, an engine tender and later a boiler stoker born in Dewsbury in 1869 and died in 1934. His mother was Amy (nee Wilson) born in Dewsbury in 1874 and died in 1939. They were married on 27th June 1896 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

They had another son, Wilson, born in Dewsbury in 1900.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 5, Robin Lane, Batley, in 1911 at Mill Street East, Savile Town, Dewsbury and later at 83, Warren Street, Savile Town.

Thomas was a single man who was educated at the Jubilee School (later the Victoria Secondary Modern) and attended Dewsbury Central Methodist Church and Sunday school. He was employed by Messrs G.H. Hirst and Company, Woollen Manufacturers, Savile Town.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in January 1917 serving as Private 351281 in the 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in July that same year. He was wounded in action prior to being taken prisoner near Peronne, France on 21st March 1918, the First Day of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). Records held by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva show that he was held in a POW camp at Niederzwehren in Germany where he died in a hospital from Sepsis (blood poisoning) on 3rd June 1918. He was buried in Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Hessen, Germany. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The city of Kassel lies in the centre of Germany approx 165kms south of Hannover. The cemetery was begun by the Germans in 1915 for the burial of prisoners of war who died at the local camp. During the war almost 3,000 Allied soldiers and civilians, including French, Russian and Commonwealth, were buried there. In 1922-23 it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died all over Germany should be brought together into four permanent cemeteries. Niederzwehren was one of those chosen and in the following four years, more than 1,500 graves were brought into the cemetery from 190 burial grounds. There are now 1,796 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plot at Niederzwehren.

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 Dewsbury Parish School War Memorial plaque and on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill and on the War Memorial from St. Mary's Church, Savile Town, now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Thomas Hemingway

351281, 8th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 03 June 1918 Age 20

Son of Arthur and Amy Hemingway, of 83, Warren St., Savile Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

