



William Henry Thompson

1898 – 1917

William was born in Guide Post near Ashington, Northumberland in the second Quarter of 1898. His father was Thomas Frederick Thompson, a coalminer (hewer), born in Ossett in 1867 and died in Dewsbury 1955. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Peace) born in Ossett in 1875 and died in 1908. They were married at Ossett and Gawthorpe Holy and Undivided Trinity Church on 21st February 1891.

By 1901 the family were living at 7, Clyde Street, Guide Post with their two children; William Henry and Minnie, born in 1900 and died in 1901. They had three other children whilst living in the North East; Mary Ann, born in 1901, George Walter, born in 1904 and died in 1905 and Thomas born in 1906 and died in 1906. After William's mother Elizabeth died, Thomas and his two children moved back to the West Riding.

On 27th February 1909 Thomas Frederick was remarried to Ethel Arundale at St Mary's Church, Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath. By the time of the 1911 Census they had had two children; Lily, born in 1909 and Fred, born in 1911. They had three more children; Clifford, born in 1912, Ethel, born in 1917 and Gladys, born in 1919.

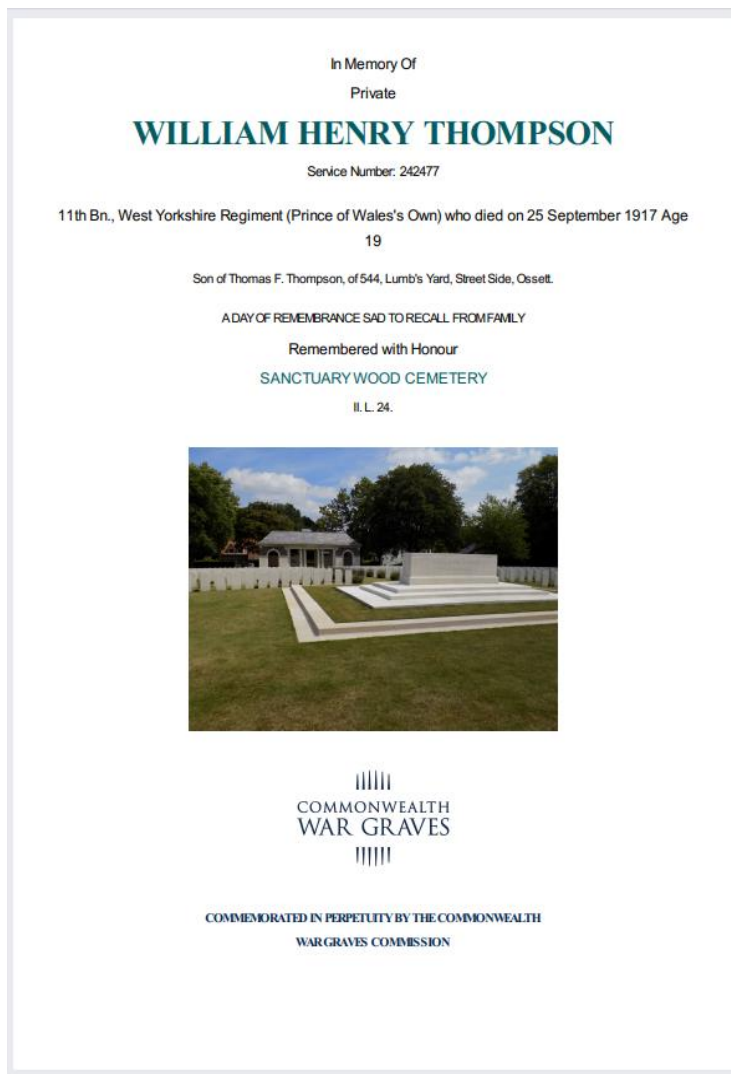
No newspaper reports have been found about William's death, but on the 1921 Census it was found that his father worked at the Shaw Cross Pit of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton. The memorial to the soldiers who had previously worked there was checked and W H Thompson is named there (see the picture below).

He served firstly as Private 6127 in the 2nd/6th and then as Private 242477 in the 11th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) having enlisted at Dewsbury in October 1916. He was killed on 25th September 1917 according to his CWGC records which would have been on the final day of the Battle of The Menin Road Ridge which was part of the Battle of Passchendaele. It is recorded that 'the losses of the 11th West Yorkshires were severe', 'with all four company commanders either killed or wounded'. His Pension Card and Soldier's Effects entry show his date of death as 29th September 1917. The discrepancy may be due to the fact he was initially reported as missing but at a later point his remains were identified for burial by his clothing and titles and he is now buried in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, 5kms East of Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His address is variously given as 544, Lumb's Yard, Ossett Street Side which is part of what was Soothill Nether which would explain the reason for him being on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and 63, Owl Lane, Shaw Cross. Lumb's Yard was on Ossett Street Side not on Street Side, Ossett as shown below on the CWGC Certificate.

William's father was shown as the sole legatee of his effects.

Headstone photograph by courtesy of Réal Desmarets, Hainault, Belgium.



William is also remembered locally on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial, the Soothill Upper War Memorial, Hanging Heaton, the memorial inside St Paul's Church, and on the Crawshaw and Warburton War Memorial which is located in the entrance to St Paul's, and his name was entered in the book *'The Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920'* compiled by The Rev W.E. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Associate of King's College University of London. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

