



## **Thomas Newton**

### **1878 - 1916**

Thomas was born at 10, Lucas Court, Buslingthorpe, Leeds on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1878. His father was Christopher Newton, a tanner born in Darlington, County Durham in 1848 and died in 1890. His mother was Sarah Ann (nee Powlett) born in Oakham, Rutland in 1850 and died in 1915. There are many spelling variations of her surname, both on her family's census records and her children's birth records. Powlett is the spelling recorded when they were married at St. John's Church, Darlington on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1867.

The family travelled extensively throughout England and Wales and births were registered in the following towns and cities; Edward, born in Darlington in 1868, William, born in Doncaster in 1870, George, born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1872, Arthur, born in Darlington in 1874, Annie, born in Leeds in 1876 and died in 1902, John Robert, born in Cardiff in 1881, Joseph, born in Cardiff in 1883, Edith, born in Bradford in 1886 and Annis, born in Bradford in 1888.

Thomas worked as a coal miner at Hartley Bank Colliery, Horbury; he was married at Holy Trinity Church, Ossett on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1897 to Cristiana Howden (born in Horbury in 1880 and died in 1962). Their children were; Anice, born in Ossett in 1897, Nellie, born in Ossett in 1899, Lily, born in Overton in 1901, William, born in Wakefield in 1903 and died in 1903, Violet, born in Wombwell in 1907, Jessie, born in Wombwell in 1909 and died in 1910, Kathleen, born in Wombwell in 1910, Thomas, born in Wombwell in 1911 and died in 1912, Louisa, born in Dewsbury in 1913 and Colin, born in Dewsbury in 1914. On the 1911 Census they were living at 18, Alma Street, Wombwell with their children and a boarder named Wilson Moody (born in Bradford in 1874 and died in 1944). He was previously married to Annie Newton, the sister of Thomas. On 20<sup>th</sup> December 1916 Christiana was married to Wilson Moody; they lived at 84, Ward's Yard, Thornhill Edge and later had 3 children, Thomas, born in 1917, Averil, born in 1919 and Mona, born in 1924.

He enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in December 1914 serving as Private 20582 and was transferred around 6<sup>th</sup> August 1915 to the newly formed 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) serving as Private 22598 and was stationed on the island of Malta for eleven months. He was sent to the Western Front in May 1916 and in the August, he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshires with the Service Number 5487. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, the Regiment, as part of the 149<sup>th</sup> Division attacked the Salient around Thiepval village known as the "Pope's Nose". His leg was shattered by a shell on 5<sup>th</sup> September and he was taken to a Casualty Clearing Station where the leg was amputated but he died later that same day. He was buried in Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, Somme, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He did not qualify for the 1914-15 Star as he did not serve in a war zone until 1916.

Doullens is a town in the Department of the Somme, approx 30 kilometres north of Amiens on the road to Arras. In March 1916, Commonwealth forces succeeded the French on the Arras front and the 19<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station came to Doullens, followed by the 41<sup>st</sup>, the 35<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>. By the end of 1916, these had given way to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital (which stayed until June 1918) and the 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Northumbrian Casualty Clearing Station. From February 1916 to April 1918, these medical units continued to bury in the French extension (No 1) of the communal cemetery. In March and April 1918, the German advance and the desperate fighting on this front threw a severe strain on the Canadian Stationary Hospital. The extension was filled, and a second extension begun on the opposite side of the communal cemetery. The Communal Cemetery Extension No 1. contains 1,335 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 Thornhill War Memorial in St. Michael and All Angels Church and on the Ossett War Memorial.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Thomas Newton**

5487, 1st/5th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 05 September 1916 Age  
37

Husband of C. Newton, of 84, Wards Yard, Thornhill Edge, nr. Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
**Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.