



Thomas Henry Lee **1884 – 1916**

Thomas was born in Thornhill Lees on 3rd March 1884 and baptised on 3rd April 1884 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Thornhill. His father was William Lee, a woollen spinner born in Thornhill in 1853. His mother was Selina (née Fisher) born in Bristfield in 1851 and died in 1919. They were married in 1874.

Their other children were; Annie, born in 1875, Arthur, born in 1876 and died in 1904, Lister, born in 1880, Miriam, born in 1886, Hilda, born in 1889 and John Thomas, born in 1890 and died in 1896.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at 2, Beatson Street, Thornhill, in 1891 and 1901 at Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees, in 1911 at Myrtle Grove, Thornhill Lees and later at 110, Brewery Lane, Thornhill Lees.

Thomas was a single man who worked as a Willyer in the blanket mill of Messrs Wormald and Walker.

He enlisted on 24th March 1916 serving as Private 31443 in the 22nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front in May. He was killed in action on the 12th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme by a direct hit from a shell and was buried in Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Carnoy is a village just north of the road from Albert to Peronne, about 10 kilometres east-south-east of Albert. The cemetery was begun in August, 1915, by the 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers and the 2nd King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, when the village was immediately South of the British front line. It continued in use by troops holding this sector until July, 1916, when Field Ambulances came up and a camp was established on the higher ground North of the village. It was closed in March, 1917. From March to August, 1918, it was in German hands, and German (and a few British) graves were made between the British graves and the entrance, and also in a German Cemetery alongside; but the German graves and the German Cemetery were removed in 1924. There are now over 850, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 30 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 17 soldiers and one airman from the United Kingdom, known or believed to be buried among them.

Thomas is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Thomas Hy Lee* on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of
Private
T H Lee

31443, 22nd Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 12 September 1916 Age 32

Son of Mr. W. Lee, of 110, Brewery Lane, Thornhill Terrace, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Carnoy Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.