



Thomas Henry 1879 – 1916

Thomas was born in Dawgreen, Dewsbury on 7th November 1879. His father was Edward Henry, a Labourer born in Ireland around 1841 and died in 1891. His mother was Mary (née Colloran) born in County Mayo, Ireland around 1851 and died in 1923. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 20th February 1870.

Their other children were; Catherine/Kate, born in 1872, John, born in 1874, Ann/Annie, born in 1877 and Mary, born in 1883. On the 1891 Census the family lived at 9, Ingham Road, Dewsbury. In 1911 his mother Mary is living at 20, Asylum Road, Westtown.

In 1901 Thomas is working as an iron foundry labourer; he is a boarder with the family of Thomas and Mary Ann Rhodes and their six children at 23, Oswald Place, New Wortley, Leeds. In 1901 he was married to their daughter Martha Rhodes (born in 1880 and died in 1911) they had three children; Mary Ann, born in 1901, Kate/Catherine, born in 1904 and died in 1904 and Thomas Edward, born in 1905 and died in 1905. On the 1911 Census he is living at 2, Rickard Street, New Wortley but his wife and daughter are not recorded.

After the death of Martha, his daughter Mary Ann was cared for by the Rhodes family who had moved to 4, Havelock Street, Wellington Road, Wortley.

He enlisted at the outbreak of war serving as Private 22151 in the 10th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 5th October 1915. He was wounded in the initial stages of the Battle of the Somme and died in the 36th Casualty Clearing Station at Heilly on 7th July 1916. He was buried in a joint grave in Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'abbe, Somme, France. Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His mother received a letter from the sister in charge of the 36th Casualty Clearing Station informing her of his death. It said, "*Dear Mrs Henry, - I am grieved to have to tell you of the death of your son, Private T. Henry. He was admitted to this hospital on July 3rd suffering from a wound to the abdomen. The doctors operated at once, which was the only chance of saving his life, but the internal injuries were too severe, and he gradually sank, passing away very peacefully at 4-30 a.m. on the morning of the 7th. He was attended by the Catholic chaplain who visited him throughout his illness and buried him in the military cemetery attached to this camp. He was so good and patient all the time he was here, and never murmured. He gave your address, and seemed pleased to think that I would write to you, and sent his love. He got his wound in the great attack, and seemed happy to think that he had been in such a successful action....*"

The burials in Heilly Station Cemetery were carried out under extreme pressure and many of the graves are either too close together to be marked individually, or they contain multiple burials. Some headstones carry as many as three sets of casualty details, and in these cases, regimental badges have had to be omitted. Instead, these badges, 117 in all, have been carved on a cloister wall on the north side of the cemetery. The 36th Casualty Clearing Station was at Heilly from April 1916. It was joined in May by the 38th and in July by the 2nd/2nd London, but these hospitals had all moved on by early June 1917. There are now 2,890 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Private
T Henry

22151, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 07 July 1916

Remembered with Honour
Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'abbe



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

