



## Thomas Arthur Hoyle

### 1895 - 1917

Thomas was born in Batley Carr on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1895 and baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1895. His father was William Hoyle, an under overlooker (foreman) in a blanket mill, born in Batley Carr in 1867 and died in 1933. His mother was Annie Eliza Hoyle (nee Rawnsley) born in Huddersfield in 1868 and died in 1930. They were married on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1888 at All Saints Church, Batley.

They had two other children; Ethel, born in 1890 and George, born in 1900 and died in 1900.

On the 1901 Census they lived at Oldroyd 's Yard, 10, Town Street, Earlsheaton and in 1911 at 7, Blackburn's Buildings, Trinity Street, Batley Carr and later at 136, West View, Chickenley Lane, Dewsbury.

Thomas was a single man who had attended Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr where he was a choirboy but for the last five years had worshipped at Eastborough Wesleyan Church. Prior to enlisting was employed by the Maypole Dairy Company as a shop assistant in grocery and provisions

He attested in Bradford on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1915 into the Cameron Highlanders and was later transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gordon Highlanders serving as Private 26667. He was sent to the Western Front in July 1916 and was killed in action on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917, the first day of the Battle of Arras. He was buried in Highland Cemetery, Roclincourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His family received the following letter; *"I write to tell you of your dear son, who was killed in action on 9<sup>th</sup> April. His body was recovered and is buried in a little British Cemetery which we chose in what was once 'No Man's Land'. His grave is distinctly marked and the cemetery is now consecrated as the resting-place of our brave fallen heroes. I must deeply sympathise with you and yours in this great loss, and I pray that God may sustain and comfort you all; with all tender feelings, yours very sincerely, Henry Coulter, Chaplain 6<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders"*.

Roclincourt is a village a little east of the road from Arras to Lens. It was just within the British lines before the Battles of Arras 1917; and it was from the village that the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) and 34<sup>th</sup> divisions advanced on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917. Highland Cemetery was made (under the name of Roclincourt Forward Cemetery No.1) when the battlefields were cleared after the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917, and after the Armistice, by the concentration of graves from the battlefields of Arras. There are now over 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 50 are unidentified.

Thomas is commemorated as *Thomas A. Hoyle* on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Memorial in the now demolished Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (current whereabouts of Memorial untraced).

In Memory of

Private

**T A Hoyle**

266671, 1st/6th Bn., Gordon Highlanders who died on 09 April 1917 Age 21

Son of William and Annie Eliza Hoyle, of 136, West View, Chickenley, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Highland Cemetery, Roelincourt



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memory" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.