



Frank Thompson

1888-1918

Frank was born in Dewsbury on 7th December 1888 and baptised on 27th April 1889 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. His father was Robert Thompson, a Railway Porter and later a General Carrier born in Gringley on the Hill, Nottinghamshire in 1853 and died in 1912. His mother was Martha Ann (nee Child) born in Flockton near Huddersfield in 1856 and died in 1902. They were married on 8th November 1882 in St. Peter's Church, Bradford.

Their other children were; Hannah Mary, born in Bradford in 1882, John Leonard, born in Bradford in 1884, Amy, born in Dewsbury in 1885 and Edith, born in Dewsbury in 1888.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 23, Pyrah Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 at Soothill Terrace, Crackenedge, Dewsbury. In 1911 Robert was living with his daughter Edith at Hallcroft Road, Retford, Nottinghamshire.

Frank was a single man who worked as a General Labourer; in 1911 he was a boarder living at 32, Warden Street, Canklow Road, Rotherham.

He enlisted in Rotherham and served as Private 55058 in the 15th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own); he died in hospital at St. Omer, France from pneumonia and influenza (Spanish Flu) on 1st November 1918. He was buried in a joint grave in Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Frank was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

St. Omer is a large town 45 kilometres south-east of Calais. Longuenesse is a commune on its southern outskirts. The Cemetery is approximately 3 kilometres from St. Omer, beside the Wizernes (Abbeville) road at its junction with the Rue des Bruyeres. St. Omer was the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force from October 1914 to March 1916. The town was a considerable hospital centre with the 4th, 10th, 7th Canadian, 9th Canadian and New Zealand Stationary Hospitals, the 7th, 58th (Scottish) and 59th (Northern) General Hospitals, and the 17th, 18th and 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations all stationed there at some time during the war. St. Omer suffered air raids in November 1917 and May 1918, with serious loss of life. The cemetery takes its names from the triangular cemetery of the St. Omer garrison, properly called the Souvenir Cemetery (Cimetiere du Souvenir Francais) which is located next to the War Cemetery. The Commonwealth section of the cemetery contains 2,874 Commonwealth burials of the First World War (6 unidentified), with special memorials commemorating 23 men of the Chinese Labour Corps whose graves could not be exactly located.

Frank is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of
Private

Frank Thompson

55058, 15th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 01 November 1918 Age 29

Son of Robert Thompson. Native of Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.