



William Birmingham 1882 - 1916

William was born at the family home in New Street, Dewsbury on 25th March 1882 and baptised the following day at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown. His father was Thomas Birmingham, a Stonemason born in Dunmore, County Galway, Ireland in 1845 and died in 1915. His mother was Margaret (nee Lally) born in Ireland around 1847 and died in 1887. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 6th November 1864.

Their other children were; Margaret, born in 1866, Mary, born in 1867 and died in 1869, Ann, born in 1870, John, born in 1872 and died in 1874, Thomas, born in 1875, Peter, born in 1877, Margaret, born in 1879, Michael, born in 1880 and Elizabeth, born in 1885.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at New Street, Westtown, Dewsbury and in 1891 at Swallow Road, Westtown. In 1901 William was a boarder living at 18, Junction Road, Westtown. He has not been found on the 1911 Census.

Thomas was remarried on 12th July 1888 to Anne Egan, born in Tourlestrane, County Sligo, Ireland in 1851, they had two children; Mary born in 1889 and Patrick, born in 1891 and died in 1896. In 1911 Thomas was an inmate of the Dewsbury Workhouse.

William was a single man who worked at Wrenthorpe Colliery, Wakefield. In his obituary which appeared in the local press some three months after his death, his address was given as 31, Armitage Buildings, Batley Carr.

He enlisted in the 10th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 17467 and was sent to the Western Front on 11th September 1915. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

William is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park, in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and on the Wrenthorpe Colliery War Memorial in the grounds of St. John the Baptist Church, Wentworth Street, Wakefield.

In Memory of
Private
William Birmingham

17467, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 34

Son of the late Thomas and Margaret Birmingham.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

BIRMINHAM W