



Tom Goldthorpe 1882-1917

Tom was born in Dewsbury in 1882. His birth name was registered as *Tom Gawthorpe*. On later census records his name is spelt as Gawthorpe and subsequently Goldthorpe. His father was Josiah *Gawthorp*, a railway plate layer and later a railway coal leader (carman) born in Dewsbury Moor in 1850 and died in 1884 (death surname registered as *Goldthorpe*) His mother was Isabella (nee Townend) born in Heckmondwike in 1851 and died in 1931. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 10th October 1869.

Their other children were: Mary Ann *Goldthorp*, born in 1870, Sarah *Goldthorp*, born in 1873, Fred *Gawthorp*, born in 1875, Harriet *Gawthorpe*, born in 1877 and Annie *Gawthorpe*, born in 1883. All names are spelt as per their official birth records.

Isabella was remarried at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 30th November 1889 to Thomas Rushworth, a widower born around 1852 and died in 1907. They had a son, Harry Rushworth, born in 1894 and died of wounds on 16th August 1917. Thomas Rushworth had five children to his first marriage in 1875 to Martha Ann Borsay (born in Stalybridge in 1855 and died in 1886); Sarah Jane Rushworth, born in 1875, Lilla (Lily) Rushworth, born in 1877, Allen Rushworth, born in 1879 and died in 1880, Annie Rushworth, born in 1882 and Fred *Rishworth (sic)*, born in 1885. On the 1891 and 1901 Census records they lived at Bower Lane, Dewsbury Moor, in 1911 at 88, Knowles Hill Road, Dewsbury Moor and later at 17, Knowles Hill Road.

Tom was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Moor Board School and worked in the woollen mill of Messrs Priestley and Company, Littletown, Liversedge.

He served as Private 41286 in the 2nd Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He died of wounds in No. 21 Casualty Clearing Station at Nesle, France on 5th April 1917; his company had been attacked two days previously near Savy, 6.5 kilometres west of the town of St. Quentin by German Planes who proceeded to throw bombs on the soldiers below. He was buried in Nesle Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Tom was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Nesle is a village 20 kilometres south of Peronne. It was held by the Germans during the early part of the War, and occupied by French and British cavalry on 18th March 1917. On 25th March 1918 it was taken by the Germans, after severe fighting with French and British troops; but it was recaptured by the French on the following 28th August. From April to June 1917, No.21 Casualty Clearing Station was at Nesle, and the dead from it were buried in a plot near the West corner of the Communal Cemetery, between two German plots. In May 1918, four British soldiers were buried among these graves. There are now over 100, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified.

Tom 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

T Goldthorpe

41286, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 05 April 1917

Remembered with Honour

Nesle Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

