Thomas Callaghan



Rank: - Private

Number: - 12141

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 7th Battalion

Killed in action: - 16th August 1917 aged 22 years

Cemetery: - Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium IV. E.15

Family Details

Thomas was born in Batley Carr in c.1894 the son of John and Ann Callaghan nee Manton who had married on the 26th February 1887 at St. Joseph's Church, Batley Carr. He had an older sister Mary Ann born in c.1887 and in 1901 the family was living at 21, Swallow Road, Dewsbury. James was born in 1897 but sadly died aged one year in 1898.

In 1911 the family lived in a three roomed home at 3, Swallow Road, Dewsbury. John was working as a bricklayer's labourer, Ann was a cloth refiner, Thomas a piecener and Mary Ann who had married and had a child, John Carroll in 1910 was keeping house. The census tells us that another two children had died in infancy.

In late 1913 Thomas married Martha Cunningham and they went to live at 46, Dale Street, Batley Carr. John was born in 1914 followed by Ellen in 1916.

Service Details

Thomas enlisted at Dewsbury and embarked on the 23rd July 1915.

The 7th (Service) Battalion was formed at Pontefract on 12 September 1914 as part of K2 and came under command of 61st Brigade in 20th (Light) Division. They moved to Woking and then on to Witley in February 1915, going on to Salisbury Plain in May. On the 24 July 1915 they landed at Boulogne.

On 26 July 1915 the Division completed concentration in the Saint-Omer area, all units having crossed to France during the preceding few days. Early trench familiarisation and training took place in the Fleurbaix area.

The Division served on the Western Front for the remainder of the war, taking part in many of the significant actions:

1916

The Battle of Mount Sorrel, a local operation in which the Division recaptured the height with the Canadians)2-13 June)
The Battle of Delville Wood (15 July -3 September)
The Battle of Guillemont (3-6th September)

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)
The Battle of Morval (25-28th September)
The Battle of Le Transloy (1-18 October)
The last five battles are phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

1917
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line
The Battle of Langemarck (16-18 August) which was a phase *of the Third Battles of Ypres*

Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group