Thomas Gannon



Rank: - Private

Number: - 3/2034

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 18/4/1915

Memorial: - Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
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Family Details

Thomas was born in Batley in c.1869 the son of Patrick and Bridget Gannon nee Kairnes who both came from County Mayo, Ireland but married in Dewsbury District 1865.

In 1881 the family was living in New Street, Batley. Michael was born in 1865 followed by Thomas, James 1871, Charles 1873, Joseph Patrick 1875, John William 1879. Catherine born 1867 died in April 1870. Patrick and Bridget had a shop in New Street where they sold grocery and provisions. Patrick also had a beer-house licence. Patrick died in April 1885.

Thomas enlisted in the Army. He was almost 5ft.8 inches tall, had a fresh complexion, grey eyes and dark brown hair and was a collier by trade. His military character was very good.

On the 30th July 1910 he married Mary Slogan at St. Mary's Church, Batley.

Service Details

Thomas had previously been in the 3rd Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment and on 17th October 1898 attested to join the King's Rifle Corps but was transferred to the reserves on 26th November 1906. He was mobilised on the 4th August 1914 at Winchester and went to France on the 19th January 1915.

At this time the 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire light Infantry was attached to 13th Brigade in the 5th Division.

Thomas was missing, presumed killed in action just before the Second Battle of Ypres 1915 which was fought from 22 April – 25 May 1915 for control of the strategic Flemish town of Ypres in western Belgium after the First Battle of Ypres the previous autumn. It was the first mass use by Germany of poison gas on the Western Front.

His effects were left to his brothers Michael, Charles, Joseph and sister-in-law Annie.

Thomas was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and the Menin Gate, Belgium.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group