Thomas Henry Hemingway





Rank: - Private

Number: - 269048

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) (1/4th West Riding Regt) 10th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 27/10/1918 Age: 30 years

Cemetery: - Tezze British Cemetery, Italy Plot 4. Row B. Grave 14.

"AT REST"

Batley News, 30 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Thomas Henry was born in 1888 and baptised on September 30th the son of Charles Frederick and Elizabeth Hemingway nee Johnson. The couple had married in 1882 and Charles Frederick was born in 1884 and baptised December 14th but sadly died aged 2 years in September 1887. He had two older siblings Robert Bowling baptised March 28th 1886, Gertrude Cissie baptised September 25th 1887 and he was followed by Frances Ann baptised February 9th 1890. In 1891 the family was living in Vulcan Road, Dewsbury where Charles Frederick was a rag merchant.

Fred was born on the 16th August 1891 but his father, Charles Frederick sadly died in November 1891.

Thomas Henry attended Dewsbury Parish Church Schools.

In 1901 the family lived in Watergate Road, Westtown, Dewsbury. ALAINGRAY

In 1911 Thomas Henry gave his employment as an umbrella frame maker and he was living in a four roomed home at 22, Pyrah Street, Carlton Road, Dewsbury with his mother and four siblings. The census shows that another child had died in infancy.

On the 28th January 1913 he married Ann Hutchinson at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr. Eric Hutchinson was born in March 1914 followed by Ronald Ernest in May 1916. The family lived at 70, Commonside, Hanging Heaton and his mother and some of his siblings lived close.

Before he enlisted, he worked for J. Shaw Bros. umbrella manufacturers, Leeds and a newspaper report states he had worked there for 16 years. He was a nephew of Edward Hemingway who was the secretary at Dewsbury Infirmary.

Service Details

Thomas Henry enlisted on March 20th 1917 and went to France on June 12th 1917 according to Hanging Heaton booklet.

The 10th Battalion took part in: -

1917
The Battle of Messines (7-14 June), The Battle of the Menin Road, Battle of Polygon Wood, the First Battle of Passchendaele and the Second Battle of Passchendaele.
In November 1917 they were deployed to Italy to strengthen the Italian resistance after a recent disaster at the Battle of Caporetto and the Division positioned along the River Piave.

The fighting on the Asiago Plateau, The Battle of Vittorio Veneto, including the passage of the Piave and the battle of Monticano.

The Italians entered the war on the Allied side, declaring war on Austria, in May 1915. Commonwealth forces were at the Italian front between November 1917 and November 1918. The village of Tezze was captured by the Austrians in the advance in the autumn of 1917 and remained in their hands until the Allied forces crossed the River Piave at the end of October 1918. On 21 October 1918, Commonwealth forces comprising the XIVth Corps (7th and 23rd Divisions), which had been transferred from the Asiago sector, took over the part of the River Piave front from Salletuol to Palazzon, serving as part of the Italian Tenth Army. On the night of 23 October, the main channel of the river was crossed using small boats and the northern half of the island of Grava di Papadopoli was occupied, the occupation being completed two nights later by a combined Commonwealth and Italian force. After the capture of the island, the bridging of the Piave proceeded rapidly, although the strength of the current meant that the two bridges built for the crossing were frequently broken and many men were drowned. The Allied attack east of the Piave began early in the morning of 27 October. Despite stiff resistance and difficulties with bringing forward supporting troops across the river, the Austrians were forced back over the next few days until the Armistice came into effect on 4 November. Many of those who died on the north-east side of the river during the Passage of the Piave are buried in Tezze British Cemetery. It now contains 356 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

His brother, Fred who resided with his mother, and had gone to France in May 1916 was missing since May 1918.

Thomas Henry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group