Thomas (Tom) Holliday





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 174045

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery "B" Bty. 110th Bde.

Killed in Action: - 22/04/1918 Age: 25 years

Cemetery: - Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord, France 11.A.15

"WORTHY OF EVERLASTING LOVE"

Batley News, 4 May 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Thomas was born in Brighouse on the 27th March 1893 the son of Josiah & Emma Holliday nee Priestley who had married on the 25th March 1878 at Bradford, St Peter Church (Bradford Cathedral). He was baptised at St. Paul's Church, Buttershaw on the October 1893 when his father gave his occupation as an overlooker.

Josiah was a cotton dyer who came from Wibsey, Bradford and Sarah came from Low Moor, Bradford.

Arthur was born in 1878 in Bradford followed by Alice 1880, Joseph 1882, Florence 1884, Frank 1887-1887, Edith 1888 and Elizabeth 1890 and Thomas and Herbert 1896 were born in Brighouse. Emma died in December 1897.

Widower Josiah married spinster, Sarah Clayton at Holy Trinity Church, Wibsey on the 14th January 1899. Josiah was a cotton dyer who came from Wibsey, Bradford and Sarah came from Low Moor, Bradford.

Josiah died on the 2nd April 1906 when he lived at 22, Wensleydale Parade, Batley, he had been a foreman dyer. Sarah and the family were still at this address in 1911.

Thomas attended Brownhill Day Schools and was a chorister at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill. After leaving school he served his apprenticeship at Birstall Co-operative Society before becoming manager and buyer in the tailoring department at Wakefield Co-operative Society.



THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

HOLLIDAY.—In loving memory of a dear son and brother, Gnr. Tom Holliday (Signalling Section), R.F.A., 4th son of the late Josiah Holliday, and of Mrs. Holliday, 22, Wensleydale Parade, Bradford Road, Batley, Killed in Action April 22nd, 1918.

"May his reward be as great as his sacrifice."

From Mother, Sisters, and Brothers.

HOLLIDAY.—In loving memory of Gnr. Tom Holliday, who Paid the Supreme Sacrifice, April 22nd, 1918.

"Deeply mourned."

From his fiancee, Elsie.

Dewsbury District News 4th May 1918

Service Details

Thomas enlisted at Batley in September 1916 and disembarked in France in June 1917.

A comrade returned a letter from Thomas to his family, which had not been posted and was found on the deceased. He said: -

"I write to let you know that whilst in the course of his duty yesterday (April 22nd) your son Tom was killed. The fact that his death was instantaneous and that he suffered no pain may be of some little consolation to you and I send you my sincere sympathy and that of his comrades, all of whom held him in high esteem. His absence will be felt by us all."

A Lieutenant wrote to her: -

"*Your son was killed on April 22nd near Meteren. I have been his section officer since he joined this battery, and I have seldom met a braver and more conscientious as regards his duty to his country. He was an exceptionally good signaller and had a very promising future in front of him in the art of signalling which is the most responsible job in any fighting area. He performed his duties splendidly and was a great favourite of both officers and men."*

His brother Joe Holliday was in France with the Grenadier Guards and his brother Herbert after being wounded in France was on agricultural work in Scotland.

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Thomas is remembered with Honour at Brownhill St Saviour's Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group