Thomas Lovell





Rank: - Driver

Number: - 147343

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery 34th Div. Ammunition Col.

Drowned whilst bathing in a canal: - 22/05/1918 Age: 21 years

Cemetery: - Aire Communal Cemetery,Pas-de-Calais, France 11.K.4

"REST INPEACE WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER THY WILL BE DONE"

Batley News, 1 Jun 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Thomas was born in Batley on the 31st January 1897 the son of George and Annie Lovell nee Badley who had married on the 24th May 1890 at Dewsbury Parish Church. He was baptised at Batley Parish Church on the 11th January 1899 when his parents were living at 32, Norfolk Street, Batley and his father was described as a labourer.

George had been born in Whitley and his wife in Wakefield and the family moved around probably for him to find work. Arthur was born in Batley in 1892 followed by William 1894 in Dewsbury, Thomas, Ivy 1900 in Batley but in 1901 the family was living at 13, Rhodes Street, Castleford and George was working at a coal worker above ground.

The family returned to Batley and Thomas was educated at Park Road Schools and afterwards employed as a fettler for Messrs. G. & J. Stubley's Hick Lane Mills, Batley. He was connected with Broomhill Sunday School. The family lived at 23, Bond Street, Batley.

Service Details

Thomas enlisted at Dewsbury in January 1916.

In 1916 the Division fought at the Battle of Albert including the capture of Scots and Sausage Redoubts (1st-13th July)

Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17th July)
Battle of Pozieres Ridge (23rd July-3 September)
Battle of Flers-Courcelette (only 103rd Brigade and Divisional Pioneers) which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

In 1917they fought at
The First Battle of the Scarpe (9-14 April)
The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23-24 April)
The Battle of Arleux (28-29 April)
which were phases of the Arras Offensive
The fighting at Hargicourt (August)
The Third Battles of Ypres (fighting for the Broenbeek, 13-23 October 1917)

In 1918they fought at
The Battle of St Quentin, a phase of the First Battles of the Somme 1918 (21-23

March)
The Battle of Estaires (9-11 April)
The Battle of Bailleul (13-15 April)
The First Battle for Kemmel Ridge (17-19 April)
which were phases of the Battles of the Lys

After suffering heavy losses during the Battles of the Lys, the Division was withdrawn from fighting and moved on 21 April to the area west of Poperinge. It was reorganised here while put to work digging a new defensive line Abeele-Watou. On 13 May the infantry moved to near Lumbres and was then reduced to a cadre, employed training American troops.

Thomas was attached to Divisional Headquarters staff and in May 1918 a Captain wrote to his parents to say Thomas had drowned whilst bathing in a canal.

His elder brother Arthur who was married and lived at Bromley Street, Hanging Heaton with his wife and three children was with the Scottish Rifles in France at the time of his death.

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group