Thomas Herbert Potter





Rank: - Private

Number: - 18254

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 1st/4th Bn.

Killed in Action: - 1st October 1918 aged 24 years

Memorial: - Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Panel 6

Batley News, 2 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Thomas Herbert was born in Dewsbury in 1894 the eldest son of Herbert Thomas and Martha Potter nee Powell who had married on 1st August 1891 at St. Philip the Apostle (Mission) Church, Dewsbury.

When the 1901 census was taken he and his parents were visiting his maternal grandparents at 16, Victoria Road, Dewsbury. His father, Herbert Thomas who was a photographer, worked for himself and had moved his family to live in Bridlington. Sarah was born in Bridlington in 1903 followed by James Henry in Beverley in 1907. Harry 1898 and Emily 1910 were born in the Dewsbury area but had died shortly after birth.

In 1911 Thomas and his mother and two siblings were living at 72, High Street, Hanging Heaton, Batley and seventeen year old Thomas was working as a student weft carrier. His father was staying with his parents at 72, Ings Lane, Bridlington and working as a house painter.

The family then moved to Healey Lane, Batley and Thomas worked for Messrs. Robert Brearley and Sons, Queen Street, Mills, Batley.

Thomas was an enthusiastic Scout and played a prominent part in starting the 2nd Heckmondwike Troop.

His family moved to live at 75, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Service Details

According to newspaper reports Thomas enlisted in February 1915 and went after training, to France around November 1915. Towards the end of 1916 he was invalided home with trench fever but returned to his unit. In June 1917 he received a severe scalp wound and was once again sent back to England but in October 1917 was sent to Egypt and he would have taken place in the Third Battle of Gaza in November 1917. He served there for about six months before landing at Marseilles in April 1918 for service in France.

By the 23rd April they were in an area near Abbeville and on 29th April the Division moved to Aire and took over a sector of front line near Vimy on 6th May. It was withdrawn into reserve on 23rd July and eight days later once again went into the line north east of Arras:

The Battle of the Scarpe 26th –30th August
The Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line 2nd -3rd September
The Battle of the Canal du Nord 27th September -1st October

Thomas was missing presumed killed on the last day of this battle.

He was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Thomas is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group