Thomas Redgwick



Rank: - Private

Number: - 3/1273

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

Killed in Action: - 1st July 1916 aged 19 years

Memorial: - Thiepval, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11C &12A

Family Details

Thomas was born in Morley in 1897 the son of Arthur and Mary Ann Redgwick nee Cafferty.

The couple had married in 1883 and Margaret Elizabeth was born in Durham the following year. Annie Ellen was born in Batley on 3rd September 1886 followed by George Arthur 1889, Sarah Elizabeth c. 1890, and Mary 1895. Thomas was born in Morley in 1897 but probably around the Howley area. Before 1901 the family had returned to live at 8, Spa Street, Batley. In 1911 Arthur, Mary Ann and the younger members of the family were living in a 2 roomed home at 6, Albert Square, Batley Carr. Arthur was a miner and 14 year old Thomas was following him because in 1911 he was a coal miner underground at the West End Colliery, Batley.

According to the Soothill booklet he had previous service in the regular army before war broke out and lived at 5, Jagger's Yard, Commonside, Hanging Heaton.

Mary Ann died in July 1913 at Batley Hospital. Thomas's sister Sarah Elizabeth married William Anthony Rock in 1911.Their daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, was born on 5th December 1911 and Thomas left his effects to her.

Service Details

The 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry landed at Le Havre, France on 16th August 1914 as part of 13th Brigade in 5th Division. Thomas arrived in France on 4th December 1914.

This was just after his Division had fought at the Battles of La Bassee and Messines 1914 and the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914.

In 1915 they fought at the Second Battle of Ypres and the Capture of Hill 60.

On 28th December 1915 they switched for those of 97th Brigade in 32nd Division, a newly arrived volunteer formation. The idea was to strengthen the inexperienced Division buy mixing in some regular army troops; even though by

now many of the pre-war regulars had gone and the regular battalions themselves were often largely composed of new recruits.

In 1916 they fought at the Battle of Albert which took place between 1st July and 13th July 1916

The Allied preparatory artillery bombardment commenced on 24 June and the Anglo-French infantry attacked on 1 July, on the south bank from Foucaucourt to the Somme and from the Somme north to Gommecourt, 2 miles beyond Serre. The French Sixth army and the right wing of the British Fourth Army inflicted a considerable defeat on the German 2nd Army but from the Albert–Bapaume road to Gommecourt the British attack was a disaster, where most of the approximately 60,000 British casualties of the day were incurred. Against the wishes of General Joseph Joffre, General Sir Douglas Haig abandoned the offensive north of the road, to reinforce the success in the south, where the Anglo-French forces pressed forward through several intermediate lines, until close to the German second position.

Thomas was missing, presumed killed in battle on the first day of this offensive.

His father died the following February and his brother- in- law William Anthony Rock was killed on the 28th March 1917.

He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group