Thomas George Whiteley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 33938

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

Killed in Action: - 14/04/1917 Age: 34 years

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

Batley News, 28 Apr 1917, 5 May 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Thomas George was born in Batley on the 18th May 1882 the son of Frederick and Rachel Ann Whiteley nee Wood who had married on the 28th July 1862 at St. Peter's Church, Leeds. He was baptised at St. Mark's Church, Woodhouse, Leeds on the 24th September 1882 when his parents gave their address as Albert Terrace, Batley and his father's occupation was a coach builder.

His brother Frederick was born on 8th December 1865-1903 when his parents lived in Dewsbury, John Richard 19th January 1868, Joshua Perkin 24th December 1871 in Batley, Rachel Maud 4th April 1877, Walter 15th May 1879,

In 1891 the family was living at 8, Chapel Street, off Wilton Street, Batley but within the next decade moved to 6, Clarence Street, Batley. Frederick was a coach builder

Thomas was associated with St. Thomas's Church, Batley and was a member of Batley Working Men's Club.

His mother died in January 1906 and his father, Frederick, who had been a coach builder, died in February 1908.

On the 19th December 1908 he married Hannah Dobson at St. Thomas's Church, Batley giving his occupation as a mill-hand and living at 11, Back Bond Street, Batley. The couple lived at this address and Clara was born probably late 1909 because she was baptised at St. Thomas's Church on the 15th January 1910 when George gave his occupation as a waste puller. Albert Edward was born in 1912 but sadly died in March 1916.

Thomas was a life-long friend of Charles Avison who worked alongside of him for Mr. George Heppenstall, waste merchants, Bradford Road, Batley. Charles died of wounds on the 17th April 1917 only a few days after the death of Thomas.

Thomas moved with his family to live at Lyons Place, Wood Street, off Wellington Street, Batley.

Service Details

Thomas served for 11 and a half years in the old Volunteers after which he was placed on the reserve. He was called up when war was declared but was

discharged after 3 months. He attested under the Derby Scheme in July 1916 and went to France in January 1917. The 2nd Battalion was attached to 97th Brigade in 32nd Division and in 1917 took part in operations on the Ancre.

Private Auty of Akeroyd Street, Morley wrote to his wife: -

"I am sorry to say Private Whiteley was killed on the 14th. You can't understand how sorry I am and how I feel for Mrs. Whiteley. I suppose you know we are doing well out here, having advanced a long way. All the same it is awful work, and it will be a real treat when it is all over."

Private Gooder of Peel Street, Batley wrote to his wife to say that Thomas George had been killed by his side but at the time did not know he was a Batley man.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group