

TAYLOR Thomas ✓

Private Thomas Taylor – 12388 – 15th Btn Cheshire Regiment

Thomas enlisted at Birkenhead on 1st September 1914. He is listed in the “Cheshire Bantams”. He was invalided from France to England with shell shock and blood poisoning, returning in May 1917. Thomas was killed in action aged 26 on 19th August 1917. The Battalion was six miles NW of Saint Quinten at Lempire. As he has no known grave, he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Thomas was the son of Joseph and Sarah Taylor of Cherry Brow, Hadlow Road, Willaston. Joseph was a platelayer while his son was a blacksmith at Thornton Hough. Thomas was unmarried. In the 1911 Census he had three siblings.



Thomas

Cheshire Bantams

In 1914 the Member of Parliament for Birkenhead, Alfred Bigland, pressed the War Office for permission to form a battalion of men who were under regulation size but otherwise fit for service. A few days later, some 3,000 men had volunteered, many of whom had previously been rejected as being under height. The original men were formed in to the 1st and 2nd Birkenhead Battalions of the Cheshire Regiment, later re-designated the 15th and 16th Battalions. Other regiments began to recruit similarly.

During the Great War, St Quentin suffered greatly. In September 1914, the city was overrun, and it endured a harsh occupation. From 1916, it lay at the centre of the war zone. The Germans had integrated it into the Hindenburg Line. After the evacuation of the population in March, the town was systematically looted and industrial equipment removed or destroyed. 80% of the buildings (including the Basilica) were damaged.



St. Quentin, France during the Great War.



Today