



Thomas McEvoy (Q1 1894- 27 May 1918)

Thomas was the son of James and Emily McEvoy (nee Jones) who married in Brentford in the autumn of 1886. James was born in Isleworth and his wife Emily in Ealing, London. In 1901 the family were living in Lower Square, Isleworth but by 1911 they had moved to 69 South Street. James was employed as a Bricklayer's Labourer.



James and Emily had 4 children. The eldest was James (born 1886), then came John (born 1889), followed by Thomas (born 1894) and finally the youngest, Ellen, born in 1896. All four children were born in Isleworth. In 1911 all four were unmarried and still living at home. Son James was aged 24 and, like his father, was working as a Bricklayer's Labourer. John and Ellen were both working at the Soap Manufacturer. John, aged 21, was a Soap Boiler and Ellen, aged 14, was a Soap Tablet packer. Meanwhile Thomas, then aged 17, was employed as a Market Gardener's Hand.

Thomas initially enlisted as a Private in the the Royal Fusiliers but was later transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment (4th Battalion), also known as Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Regiment.

In May 1918 Thomas' Battalion was in northern France. On the night of 26 May they were moved from a reserve position at Beaurieux to the area just north of Craonne, where they faced the collected Divisions of the German Seventh Army. The Germans launched a massive attack at dawn on the morning of the 27th May. This was the start of what was called the Blucher-Yorck offensive or the Third Battle of Aisne. The 4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment was heavily bombarded both by ordinary and gas shells and then was outflanked on both sides by German troops. At least 80 men from the Regiment were killed and most of the rest were taken prisoner. Those who escaped

retreated back over the River Aisne.



Thomas was killed in action on 27 May 1918 at the age of 23. He is commemorated at the Marfaux British Cemetery in the Marne district of northern France.

The village of Craonne was so badly shelled in the Third Battle of Aisne that it was rebuilt elsewhere after the War and today an arboretum grows on the old site.

**Third Battle of Aisne - A German Field Battery in action against British troops
May 1918**

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