



Lance Corporal Thomas Pemberton (39500) was the son of Jane Elizabeth Terry who was born in 1848. The 1871 Census records that 23 year old Jane was a Kent dressmaker, living at home with her parents and siblings in the Parish of St Paul's in Canterbury. In Feb. 1874, Jane (26) married William Philpott who was a Kent farmer. Sadly, William died some time before the 1881 Census where Jane Elizabeth is listed as a widow with three young children, Frederick, Mercy and Marion. This must have been a very difficult time for Jane.

In the summer of 1886, Elizabeth (who has dropped her first name) marries again. Her husband is William Pemberton a widower with seven children. They marry in Canterbury. Details from the 1891 Census record that Elizabeth's son Frederick is living with his maternal grandparents and Mercy is working as a general domestic servant in a house in Canterbury. The whereabouts of her youngest daughter is not known. The 1901 Census shows that Elizabeth has given birth to two more sons Thomas Pemberton in 1890 and Charles in 1894.

Elizabeth is widowed again. William died in 1900. In 1911 Elizabeth is living at 6A Lebanon Park Mansions in Twickenham.

Some of Thomas's Army Service Records have survived and they note that 19 yr. old Thomas attested at Mill Hill on 19th January 1910 - well before WW1 broke out. He was initially in the 3rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment (12860). Thomas soon transferred to the Army Cyclist Corps (reg.no. 3402) and at one point gets into a bit of trouble regarding the theft of a saucepan. Thomas was certainly a hot-headed character, with a lengthy list of misdemeanours on his Regimental Conduct Sheet! On 6th Nov 1915, Thomas marries Elizabeth Ellen Allen-Muncey at St Mary Magdalen Church in Chiswick

On 29th Dec 1916, Thomas transferred to the 6th (Service) Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment (11th Division) with a new regimental number 39500. This Battalion were on the Western Front from July 1916, having returned from duties in the Suez Canal. Thomas joined them on 2nd Jan. 1917 as they fought on the Operations on the Ancre, at the Battle of Messines and at the Battles of Ypres and Langemarke. Thomas died on 15th Aug. 1917, the day before the start of the Battle of Langemarke. The weather was atrocious and the mud was sticky and difficult to move across. The ground had been frequently bombarded leaving dangerously deep pools of water. The Battalion war diary for 13th Aug reports that an *'enemy fighting patrol rushed one of our posts, wounding the officer in charge and 3 men. The rest of the day was fairly quiet. 14th Aug fairly quiet day without casualties. 15th Battalion entrained and went into camp until 17th.* As these were quiet days, it is possible that Thomas was one of the three men wounded in the skirmish on 13th. He may have died on the 15th from wounds inflicted whilst in action on 13th. He was 27. Thomas was awarded the British War Medal, Victory Medal and the 15 Star. He is commemorated at Ypres on the Menin Gate Panel 36 & 55. **Two Elizabeths were left to mourn:- Thomas's wife, Elizabeth Ellen, and his mother, Elizabeth (who had already lost two husbands and her youngest son, Charles, who was killed in action at Ypres in April 1915.**