

Thomas Edward Greenley

Company Sergeant Major 9653, 13th Battalion, King's Royal Rifles

Thomas Edward Greenley was born in 1878 in Rudston, Yorkshire to Edward and Jessie Greenley (née Mulholland). Edward's occupation was recorded as a 'carter' or as a rulleymen (wagon driver).

In the 1891 Census the family was living at Valance Place, Hull, Yorkshire with children Thomas Edward (13), Ingram (11), Lily (8), Walter (4) and Anne, 2 years old. Sadly in 1893 Jessie died in Hull, aged 39 years.

Later Thomas enlisted in the army, at Beverley, Yorkshire, and at the time of the 1911 Census was a Sergeant serving with the 3rd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps in Dagshai, India. He returned from India on 18 September 1914.

At the outbreak of the Great War, a new army was formed. The 13th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps was raised at Winchester on 7 October 1914 as part of Kitchener's Third New Army, and joined the 21st Division as army troops. They trained at Halton Park, Wendover and moved into winter billets in November of that year in Amersham and Great Missenden. It was there, presumably, that Thomas, now Company Sergeant Major, met Edith May Vickers. The couple married at Great Missenden Parish Church on 5 June 1915. Thomas was aged 37 years and Edith 25 years. A daughter, Phyllis May, was born in February 1916, sadly dying in April aged just 3 months, whilst the couple were living in Pineapple Road, Amersham. In his will, written when on active service, Thomas left all his property to his wife, at the address "Jissamine", Pineapple Road, Amersham Common.

On 31 July 1915 the Company proceeded to France, landing at Boulogne. They then marched across France to join the British Reserve for the **assault on Loos** on 26 September where they suffered heavy casualties.

In 1916 the Company was also in action at the **Battle of the Somme** and in July they were in support and front-line positions. On 5 August 1916 Thomas Greenley was killed, aged 38. He died in an area between High Wood and Mametz Wood, France.



Photograph: Chalmers Cursley

**Thomas Edward Greenley is remembered with Honour in the
Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France
(grave ref XII.C.5).**

He was awarded The Allied Victory Medal, The British War Medal, 1914-18 and The 1914-15 Star.

Sources:

Bucks Remembers
Bucks Examiner
Derbyshire Family History Society