

Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington
Local History Society

FISHERGATE SCHOOL



Photograph taken on 9th August 1895, eight days after the school opened, with the Headmaster, George Barker on the right and possibly Edward Hope Hawthorne on the left. *Photo courtesy York Explore*

GREAT WAR MEMORIAL REMEMBERING THE 86 FORMER PUPILS

THOMAS HUGHES

1880 - 1917

13049 CORPORAL 10th BATTALION
WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT
(PRINCE OF WALES OWN)



Thomas Hughes was born in York early in 1880. His parents were Joseph Hughes (1852-1926) and Lavinia (née Clark) (1851-1897). They were married in York in 1873.

In the 1881 Census the family were living in Coopers Buildings, near to Fitzroy Terrace, off Heslington Road. Joseph, aged 30 was working as a brick maker. Lavinia (30) cared for four children: Jane (7), William (5), Joseph (3) and the youngest Thomas (1). The older children are listed as scholars and would have attended Fishergate School.



In 1881 there were several brickmakers listed in the Trade Directories: Andrew Bulmer in Layerthorpe, Chapman & Rumford and Shaftoe's both in James Street. All of these would have been within easy walking distance of Cooper's Buildings.

The Census of 1891 shows that the family remained at 3 Cooper's Buildings. Joseph was now a Cemetery Labourer, and there were now nine children: Jane, the eldest aged 17 was a cream maker in a grocer's shop and William (15) worked at a comb factory. Joseph junior (13), Thomas (11), Nellie (8) and Annie (6) were at school; and the youngest were Frank (4), Fred (2) and Leonard 5 months.

Sadly, Lavinia died in 1897 and this would have created a crisis for the family and Joseph needed help to raise the children. In the 1901 Census, Joseph junior aged 23 and Thomas (21) lived with their brother-in-law George Bean Graham at 13 Board Street near St Clement's Church and worked as general labourers. Their father, Joseph had moved into a five-room house at 12 Fitzroy Terrace with the four younger children: Annie (17) now a chocolate worker, Fred (13), Leonard (11) and Henry (9). There was also a lodger, Lottie Barker (19). There were younger children born 1894-1896, before Lavinia's death, but they seem to have been in another household.

By 1911 Thomas had moved to Hull and was a farm labourer. He lived with another brother-in-law, William James Smith, who had married Annie. Joseph junior, still lived with the Graham's and worked as a plate-layer for the railway. Their father (60) was in Fitzroy Terrace with Fred (23), Leonard (21), Henry (19). The three youngest children are now back with him too; Hilda (17) and Ernest and Lilly both aged 15 and apparently twins, whose birth may have been complicated and hastened their mother's death.

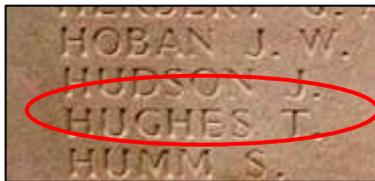
We know that Thomas enlisted in York, probably at the outbreak of war in 1914 and rose the rank of Corporal in the 10th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment.

The 10th was a service battalion raised in York on 3rd September 1914 as part of Kitchener's 2nd Army and they joined the 50th Brigade, 17th Northern Division. Initially they trained in York and then moved to Dorset before ending up in Winchester in late May 1915. They had been set for home defence but were needed at the Front, and sailed to France landing at Boulogne on 14th July 1915.



The battalion was sent first to St Omer, then to the Southern Ypres Salient to get used to the trenches before moving to the front lines. In the Spring of 1916 and were involved in the action at the Bluff near Hollebeke (red circle on map) before moving south to the Somme for the Battle of Albert (1st -13th July 1916).

In 1917 they fought in the 2nd Battle of Arras (9th April-16th May) and took part in the Battle of the Scarpe (23rd -24th April) before moving back into Flanders for the 3rd Battle of Ypres (31st July – 10th November), in particular at the 1st and 2nd Battles at Passchendaele in October. Passchendaele is 5 miles north-east of Ypres.



Thomas was killed in action on 17th October 1917 during the 1st Battle of Passendaele. His body was not recovered.

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen. Belgium., Panel 42 to 47 and 162.



The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian. The burial ground first came into being in October 1917 when the ridge where the cemetery is now located was captured by the British Army. It was one of several German blockhouses used as an Advanced Dressing Station for the wounded.



The Headmaster's Logbook contained a clipping from the *Yorkshire Herald* for 12th November 1917 with the headline:

“York Brothers make the Great Sacrifice”.

Thomas is shown with his brothers Henry, Fred, Leonard and Ernest. A summary of their service is given on the next page. What sadness this family suffered.

From the Army register of soldiers effects we know that Thomas's father Joseph was his sole legatee and received £30 19s 4d. He lived at 8 Firzroy Terrace, York, Thomas' last known address.

Thomas is remembered on the memorial in Fishergate School and has an entry in the *King's Book of Heroes*.

REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

THOMAS HUGHES



AGED 36 YEARS

HENRY HUGHES AND HIS BROTHERS FREDERICK, LEONARD AND ERNEST

The newspaper clippings shows photographs of Corporal Thomas Hughes, top left with his brothers and a friend who all served in the Great War. Two of the Hughes boys did not survive. Thomas was killed in action and Henry died of wounds. It is not known why Henry is not remembered on the Fishergate School Memorial nor why he does have an entry in the King's Book of Heroes, therefore a short biography is given below.



HENRY HUGHES (1892-1917)

795409 Driver, 311th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

The 311th Brigade was a Territorial Force of the Royal Field Artillery which had been formed in February 1915. It was designated 2nd Line, 62nd Division until January 1917 when it became an Army Brigade, the 2nd/11th West Riding Brigade.

Henry was a Driver, which meant he was responsible for the care and maintenance of the horses used to haul the artillery pieces around the battlefield. The Drivers had to replenish the ammunition and, when targeted by German Artillery, they had to pull the teams further back from the battlefield. Drivers frequently came under fire and were wounded or killed outright as was Henry during the 1917 Battles of Passchendaele.



Henry died of wounds on 29th October 1917 aged 28 and is buried in Nine Elms British Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, VII.E.22.

Nine Elms British Cemetery was begun and used by Casualty Clearing Stations when they moved to Poperinge in September 1917. Nearly all the burials in Plots I to IX came from the Clearing Stations from October to December 1917.

Henry died only 12 days after his brother Thomas's death; and his last known address was also 8 Fitzroy Terrace, York where their father lived.

Henry's brothers Fred, Leonard and Ernest came back and took up their civilian life as best they could after experiencing the trauma that was the Great War. More research is required to identify their units and their lives after the war. The cap-badges worn by Frederick and Ernest suggest their regiments, but Leonard seems to be in civilian dress although the caption under his photo says 'Private'.



FREDERICK HUGHES (1888-1960)

Private, ? Royal Engineers

LEONARD HUGHES (1890-)

Private (no cap-badge in photo)

ERNEST HUGHES (1896-?1977)

Driver, ? Royal Garrison Artillery)

REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

HENRY HUGHES



AGED 28 YEARS