

GUNNER THOMAS JARVIS HORNE

349887, 10th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery

Died aged 33 on 7 October 1918

Buried with honour in *Bourlon Wood Cemetery, Cambrai, France*; I F 12

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross



Bourlon Wood Cemetery, Cambrai



Canadian Field Artillery

THOMAS JARVIS HORNE was not a native of Tewkesbury but was born in 1885 at Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, to Henry Richard Horne, Carpenter, and Eliza (formerly Smith). By 1901 the family, including four children, had moved to Tewkesbury and were living at 22 Chance Street. At the age of 16 Thomas was a Carpenter's Apprentice with Collins & Godfrey, the most important local building firm. In September 1909 he married Edith Annie Challoner in Leicester, perhaps while working for his firm in that area. Soon afterwards he emigrated to Canada. Thomas is absent from the 1911 Census but his parents had returned by then to live in the High Street, Pershore, where Henry was working as a Beer Housekeeper as well as a Carpenter.

Thomas enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force on 29 December 1917 in Kingston, Ontario. At the time he was living in Sharpsville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, USA, with his wife, Edith, but evidently chose not to join the US Army. In his Attestation papers, he stated that he had previously served for four years with 2nd Gloucester Territorials – rather strange given that the 2nd Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, was a regular battalion. The pre-war Territorial battalions were numbered 4th, 5th and 6th. The Canadian documentation also reveals that he was '5ft 6¾ inches in height with a medium complexion; blue eyes and brown hair. He had a small scar on back of left thumb. He was a Baptist by religion.'

Thomas was posted to the 10th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, which had been formed

originally on 1 January 1916 as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The Brigade sailed for Britain on 26 February 1916, eventually disembarking on 14 July 1916 in France, where it provided field artillery support as part of the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery in France and Flanders until the end of the war.

During the second week of October 1918 the Brigade was operating in the area just to the north of Cambrai in the relative lull between the *Battle of the Canal du Nord* (27 September-1 October 1918) and the *Battle of Cambrai* (8-9 October 1918), phases of the *Battles of the Hindenburg Line* (12 September-12 October). On 7 October, the Brigade War Diary reports that 'On the 7th the enemy did a great deal of scattered shelling, which would indicate that he was making ready to evacuate.'

Gunner Thomas Jarvis Horne was killed in action on 7 October 1918, presumably as a victim of that random German shelling. His body was recovered and he is buried in *Bourlon Wood Cemetery*, near Cambrai.

The news reached Tewkesbury when Thomas's sister reported his death to the *Tewkesbury Register*, which inspired the headline: '*Tewkesbury Canadian Killed in Action: Mrs. Emma Sprackling, of Gravel Walk, has received a cablegram from America informing her that her brother was killed in action in France on the 7 October*'. The cablegram was presumably sent by Edith, who must have still been living in the USA although she did return eventually to live in Leicester.