

Corporal Thomas Kennedy, 15137. 9th Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment.



Thomas was born in 1882 in Seaham Harbour, and up to 1915 had been employed as a bottlemaker and in the mines at Seaham.

He joined the Yorkshire Regiment in 1915, and served as a corporal in D Company, 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment. Their orders for departure to France were received at Bramshot on 23rd August 1915, and they mobilised to Boulogne via Liphook and Folkstone. After a short instruction in trench warfare at Rue Delpierre, they moved into 3rd line trenches on the Bois Grenier line on 18th September, where a shrapnel injury gave their first casualty on 29th September.

Up to 11th December, they spent approximately 25 days in the trenches, until Thomas was killed at T47/48/49/50/51. His death is the only casualty recorded for the Company on that day.

His grave is at the Brewery Orchard Cemetery in Bois Grenier, mid way between the front line and the billet positions at Rue Marle.

Below is a summary of the Battalion War Diary for the time that Corporal Kennedy served with the 9th Battalion until the day that he was killed. Attached to it is a copy of the trench map for the area.

War Diary of D Coy. 9th Bn. Yorkshire Regiment

History of 15137 Corporal Thomas Kennedy to 11th December 1915

Date	Location	Activity	Casualties			
			Killed		Injured	
			Officers	Other Ranks	Officers	Other Ranks
23/08/1915	Bramshot	Orders for departure received				
25/08/1915	Liphook	First train left for Haure, 30 officers, 106 Other Ranks, 72 horses				
26/08/1915	Liphook	Second train left for Folkstone, 15 Officers, 455 Other Ranks				
26/08/1915	Liphook	Third Train left for Folkstone, 12 Officers, 434 Other Ranks				
27/08/1915	Boulogne	Proceeded to Ostrahove Camp				
27/08/1915	Ostrahove Camp	Marched to Pont Aux Briques Station				
27/08/1915	Pont Aux Briques	Boarded, one man left due to illness				
28/08/1915	Watten	Detained and marched to Mentque				
28/08/1915	Mentque	Marched to Nortbecourt				
28/08/1915	Nortbecourt	Remained in Billeets, Parades and one casualty due to accident				1
06/09/1915	Nortbecourt	Marched to Wallons Sur Chapel				
07/09/1915	Wallons Sur Chapel	Billeted in neighbourhood and marched to Vieux Berquin				
08/09/1915	Vieux Berquin	Marched to Rue Delpierre, billeted in neighbourhood				
10/09/1915	Rue Delpierre	Instruction in Trench warfare				
12/09/1915	Vieux Berquin	Billeets				
15/09/1915	Vieux Berquin	Marched to Rue de Biez				
16/09/1915	Rue de Biez	In reserve Billeets				
18/09/1915	Trenches	D Coy. Moved into 3rd Line trenches on Bois Grenier line				
21/09/1915	Trenches	Still in 3rd Line trenches. Heavy British bombardment				
24/09/1915	Trenches	In reserve stood-by ready to advance				
25/09/1915	Trenches	Heavy British bombardment				
27/09/1915	Trenches	Moved to La Vesee section of trenches				
29/09/1915	Trenches	First casualty, injury by shrapnel				1
02/10/1915	Trenches	Relieved, moved to L'Hallobeau				
03/10/1915	L'Hallobeau	Marched to billets outside Estaires				
04/10/1915	Estaires	Billeets				
11/10/1915	Estaires	Marched to billets in Fort Rompu				
11/10/1915	Fort Rompu	Marched to billets in Rue Marle				
11/10/1915	Rue Marle	Billeets				
15/10/1915	Trenches	Relieved 8th Yorkshire Regiment at T59/60/61/62		7		5
24/10/1915	Rue Marle	Billeets				
30/10/1915	Rue Marle	Additional draft of 30 men arrived (all other ranks)				
04/11/1915	Rue Marle	Shell hit billets, 13 men injured				13
06/11/1915	Trenches	Relieved 2nd Northants. Regiment at trenches T59/60/61/62				
10/11/1915	Trenches	Moved to Bois Grenier Line to relief 8th Yorkshire Regt. Very cold		4		7
18/11/1915	Trenches	Relieved by 11th West Yorkshire Regt. Very cold and wet				
18/11/1915	Rue Marle	Billeets				
21/11/1915	Trenches	Relieved 1st Sherwood Forester in T57/58/59/60/61				
24/11/1915	Trenches	Relieved by 10th Northd. Fusiliers				
25/11/1915	Fort Rompu	Billeets - very wet, windy and cold				
06/12/1915	Rue Delettree	Billeets				
10/12/1915	Trenches	Relieved 11th West Yorkshire Regt. In T47/48/49/50/51				3
11/12/1915	Trenches	Corporal Thomas Kennedy killed		1		
			0	12	0	30

