



Thomas Henry King

Private TF/201154 Royal Sussex Regiment 1/4th Battalion, 53rd Division

Died 6th November 1917 aged 29

Thomas was born on 14th April 1888 at Newdigate, Surrey to John King and Mary Capon, their sixth child. The 1891 Census shows two year old Thomas and his family were living at Rudgewick. John and Mary had seven children – James (1877), Sarah (1879), Emma (1882), Mary (1884), John (1886), **Thomas** (1888) and Ellen (1891). Thomas' father John died in 1910.

In the 1911 Census Thomas was single and living at Church Farm South with his widowed mother Mary. Thomas and his older brother John were described as farmer's sons, working on the farm. When news of Thomas' death came through in 1917 his mother was still farming at Church Farm South. The Reverend Baker sent condolences to his mother and mentioned Thomas in prayers at Shipley Church.



The 53rd Division of the Royal Sussex Regiment was sent to the Mediterranean in July 1915 and was engaged in various actions as part of the Gallipoli Campaign. Bad weather and heavy casualties from combat, stress and disease resulted in the Division being moved to Egypt in December 1915. Thomas would have seen action during 1916 at the Battle of Romani and during the second and third Battles of Gaza in 1917. Action by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force to capture Tel El Khuweilfe was successfully accomplished on 8th November, but by then Thomas had given his life in the strong resistance put up by the Ottoman/ Turkish Army. Thomas was the second Shipley volunteer to die in this theatre of war; Frederick Adams having died two months earlier. Thomas' mother Mary received his effects, his "Death Penny" and in 1919, his war gratuity.

Thomas has no known grave and is commemorated on the Jerusalem memorial and in Shipley Church.

He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.



The "Death Penny" of Thomas King. The next of kin of all those who gave their lives during the 1914 – 1918 War received this commemorative tribute. Thomas' has been mounted with his medals and tags. This and the photograph of Thomas kindly loaned for photographing by Mrs May Hood of Shipley, a great niece of Thomas.



In Memory Of

Private

THOMAS HENRY KING

Service Number: TF/201154

4th Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 06 November 1917 Age 29

Son of Mrs. Mary King, of South Church Farm, Shipley, Horsham, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour

JERUSALEM MEMORIAL

Panels 25 and 26.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION