

William Percy Thomas

DOB – 14<sup>th</sup> May 1896

At Talbot Manor Boys Home – 1905 – 1910

Had a widowed Mother, named Annie, who was living in Manchester (on 1901 census). Married her second husband – Stephen Thomas and lived in West Ham with 6 children (including William). Her husband died in 1905 and she then married – Ernest Luther in 1907 in Manchester). He was a widower with one child. They then had another 4 children – 2 sets of twins (aged 1 and 3 years old) (in 1911 census). On the census she had no children that were born in West Ham living with her – had they died or were they all in homes? We know William was placed in Talbot Manor Boys Home.

After his time at Talbot Manor, William emigrated to Canada as part of the British Emigration Scheme. His shipping records show that he travelled on the 'Virginian', departing from Liverpool, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1910. He travelled with another boy named William Stedman to Gibbs Home, Sherbrook in Quebec.

William was described as being 5'2" tall, had a chest measurement of 35" with a 4" expansion, he had a fair complexion with grey eyes and brown hair. He became a Presbyterian whilst in Canada and was placed with the Corey family as a hired man.

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 1916, in Montreal, William joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Canadian Infantry. His military number was 856940.

William died on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1918 in France and is remembered with honour in the Wancourt British Cemetary (recorded with the Commonwealth War Graved Commission) as well as on the Talbot Village memorial at St Marks Church. Wancourt British Cemetarys address is – 1 Rue d'Alsace, 62128, Wancourt, France.

This information was researched from St Marks Church Newsletters, written by Carol Medicott (Archivist) in 2014.

Information also obtained from the British Home Children Registry.