

## **Lance Corporal Thomas Albert Chapman<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 11818**

**4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers**

**born: 1888 - died: 29 May 1918**

Lance Corporal Thomas Albert Chapman was born in 1888,<sup>1</sup> the youngest child of Thomas Edward (Edwin)<sup>2</sup> and Matilda Chapman, and was baptized on 15 April 1888 at All Hallow's Church in Tottenham, London.<sup>3</sup> His parents were both born in London—his father was born in Spitalfields in about 1837<sup>4</sup> and baptized at Spitalfields Christ Church in Stepney on 25 May 1838,<sup>5</sup> and his mother (nee Matilda Leach) was born in New Cross in about 1857.<sup>6</sup> They married on 20 April 1881 at All Saints Church in Edmonton, London,<sup>7</sup> and had six children: Georgina Maud (born in 1881),<sup>8</sup> Edward Mercer (born in 1883),<sup>9</sup> Ethel Matilda (born in 1885),<sup>10</sup> Rose Priscilla (born in 1890),<sup>11</sup> Daisy (born in 1892)<sup>12</sup> and Thomas.

In 1891, the family was living at 12 Charles' Terrace, St Paul's Road in Tottenham, where Thomas' father was a vegetable salesman.<sup>13</sup> Ten years later, they were living at 4 Ashby Terrace, Sutherland Road in Edmonton and his father was a greengrocer with his own store.<sup>14</sup>

By 1911, at the age of 23, Thomas had already joined the 4th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He was a private, living at the Corunna Barracks, Stanhope Lines in Aldershot.<sup>15</sup> His father was in the Edmonton Infirmary. He died there, at the age of 74, in 1911<sup>16</sup> and was buried on 29 July in Chingford Mount Cemetery in London.<sup>17</sup> Thomas' mother and two sisters, Ethel and Rose, were living at 16 Gloucester Road in Edmonton. Ethel and Rose were cartridge base makers in an ammunition factory.<sup>18</sup> (Eley was a British ammunition manufacturer established by William and Charles Eley in London in 1828. In the early 1900s, it became part of the Nobel Industries.<sup>19</sup>)

Thomas joined the British Expeditionary Force at the beginning of the war<sup>20</sup> in Houslow.<sup>21</sup> He survived for nearly four years. At the end of May 1918, the 4th Battalion was on the front line, having replaced the 1st Gordons on 16 May. On 20 May, two non-officers were wounded before the battalion was relieved late in the evening.<sup>22</sup> Thomas may have been one of the two wounded soldiers, because he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 20 May with shrapnel wounds to his head.<sup>23</sup> However, he survived for nine days, only succumbing to his wounds on 29 May. He was buried the following day in Pernes British Cemetery (Grave Reference: Plot II, Row D, Grave 31) with the Canadian chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.

In May 1918, nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted to No. 1 CCCS.<sup>24</sup> There were 115 deaths that month—more than in any of the other three and a half months that No. 1 CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when No. 1 and No. 4 CCCSs came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.<sup>25</sup>

His mother, who was living at 36 Argyle Road, High Street, in Tottenham, was notified of his death. She and two of Thomas' sisters, Ethel and Rose, received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>26</sup>

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>27</sup>

His brother Edward married a Sarah Agnes in about 1907 and was a house painter living in Edmonton in 1911.<sup>28</sup> Sadly he died in 1915 at the age of 33.<sup>29</sup> He was buried in Chingford Mount Cemetery—the same cemetery as his father, who had died four years earlier. Thomas' eldest sister, Georgina, married Frank Oswald Stone in 1904<sup>30</sup> and, in 1911, was living with him and their two children in Tottenham.<sup>31</sup> It is not known what happened to his sisters Ethel and Daisy after 1911. His mother probably died in 1935 at the age of 78.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Albert Chapman, Registration district: Edmonton, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 308

<sup>2</sup> The baptismal, marriage and burial records for Thomas' father list his names as Thomas Edward. Only his son's baptismal record shows his names as Thomas Edwin.

<sup>3</sup> "London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1906," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Albert Chapman

<sup>4</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman, Registration district: Edmonton, Sub-registration district: Edmonton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Piece: 1265, Folio: 80, Page: 7, Household schedule number: 40

<sup>5</sup> "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 August 2017), entry for Thomas Edward Chapman, FHL film number: 592621, 592622, 592623

<sup>6</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman

<sup>7</sup> "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754–1921," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 18 August 2017), entry for Thomas Edward Chapman, Parish: All Saints, Edmonton, Borough: Enfield, Register type: Parish register

<sup>8</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 18 July 2017) entry for Chapman, Georgina Maud, Registration district: Edmonton, Volume 03A, Page 273

<sup>9</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 18 July 2017) entry for Chapman, Edward Mercer, Registration district: Edmonton, Volume 03A, Page 296

<sup>10</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 18 July 2017) entry for Chapman, Ethel Matilda, Registration district: Edmonton, Volume 03A, Page 277

<sup>11</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 18 July 2017) entry for Chapman, Rose Priscilla, Registration district: Edmonton, Volume 03A, Page 314

<sup>12</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 18 July 2017) entry for Chapman, Daisy, Registration district: Edmonton, Volume 03A, Page 378

<sup>13</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas A. Chapman, Registration district: Edmonton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9b, Piece: 1069, Folio: 114, Page: 50

<sup>14</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 11 January 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman

<sup>15</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman, Registration district: Farnham, Registration district number: 34, Sub-registration district: Aldershot, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 3123

<sup>16</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 18 August 2017), entry for Thomas E Chapma [sic], Registration district: Edmonton, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 658

<sup>17</sup> "England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800–2016," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Edward Chapman

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- <sup>18</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Edward Mercer Chapman, Registration district: Edmonton, Registration district number: 132, Sub-registration district: Edmonton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Household schedule number: 211, Piece: 7360
- <sup>19</sup> "History of ELEY," *Eley: make every shot count* (<http://www.eley.co.uk/news-info/about-us/history-of-eley>: accessed 19 August 2017)
- <sup>20</sup> Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratiuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman
- <sup>21</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman
- <sup>22</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," Regiment or Unit: Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), Sub Unit: 4th Battalion, Division: 3rd Division, Diary entry start date: May 1918, Diary entry end date: 20 May 1918, Diary dates: 1914 Jan 1–1915 Dec 31, Diary entry location: Front Line, Piece description: Piece 1431/1-3: 9 Infantry Brigade: 4 Battalion Royal Fusiliers (1914 Aug – 1919 Apr), Piece number: 1431
- <sup>23</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Chapman, T.
- <sup>24</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 15 December 2014)
- <sup>25</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)
- <sup>26</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman
- <sup>27</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 17 July 2017), entry for Thomas Chapman
- <sup>28</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 August 2017), entry for Edward Mercer Chapman, Registration district: Edmonton, Registration district number: 132, Sub-registration district: Edmonton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Household schedule number: 266, Piece: 7357
- <sup>29</sup> "England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800–2016," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 August 2017), entry for Edward Mercer Chapman
- <sup>30</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2017?), entry for Georgina Maud Chapman, Registration district: Edmonton, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 447
- <sup>31</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 August 2017), entry for Georgina Maud Stone, Registration district: Edmonton, Registration district number: 132, Sub-registration district: East Tottenham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 7, Household schedule number: 16, Piece: 7316
- <sup>32</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 18 July 2017), entry for Matilda L Chapman, Registration district: Edmonton, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 733