

Thomas Chadband

Corporal 18465, 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment

Died May 9th 1917

Commemorated on Arras Memorial, Arras, France

Thomas Chadband was born at Bourton-on-the-Hill, Gloucestershire in 1875 to William and Hannah Chadband. In 1881, William (52), a farm labourer, was living in Bourton-on-the-Hill with Hannah (52) and their three children; Charles (16), a farm labourer, Jane (11) and Thomas (6). In 1891 Tom was in nearby Moreton-on-the-Marsh, where he was recorded as a farm labourer and servant to William and Eleanor Poole who ran the Wellington Inn. Presumably they kept animals as well as running the pub, and needed Tom to look after the farming side. In 1895 Tom was in Plymouth, where he married Mary Elizabeth Trickey. She was born in Cambridge Hospital Portsmouth in 1876 and in 1891 was living with her mother and younger brother Horace (7) in Plymouth, where her occupation is recorded as a domestic servant. In 1901 Mary is living in Clowance Lane, Devonport with their daughter, Venus (7), and her brother Horace. Tom is not there, but the CWGC database also mentions he 'Served in the South African Campaign', so presumably he was fighting in the Boer War. None of them are in the 1911 census, so perhaps he was serving abroad and had taken his family with him.

Tom was in the 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, which fought in the second Boer War from 1899 to 1902. Its first battles were the Battle of Elandslaagte in October 1899 and the defence of Ladysmith in January 1900. Their subsequent advance swept the boers before them, receiving an accolade from Queen Victoria who cabled 'Greatly admire conduct of Devonshire Regiment'. Their Commander, Lieutenant-General W Kitchener, said "I cannot call to mind any single occasion on which the Devons were ever flurried or even hurried. their imperturbability of temper, even under the most trying conditions could not be surpassed. They were essentially a self-help corps and a more determined crew I never wish to see, and a better regiment to back his orders a general can never hope to have."

At the outbreak of First World War the 1st Battalion was in Jersey, but went to France a few weeks later on 21st August 1914 and Tom could justly have called himself one of 'The Old Contemptibles' as one of the first regular troops to serve in the war. The 1st Battalion served on the western front as part of the 5th Division. In 1914 and 1915, the 5th Division was active in the First and Second Battles of Ypres, and the Capture of Hill 60. In 1916 it was involved in various phases of the Battle of the Somme and in 1917 in the Battle of Arras, and it was here that Tom's two decade career as a soldier was cut short on May 9th 1917. He may have known Albert Masters, another of our casualties, who was also in 1st Battalion and was killed two weeks earlier at Arras. Like Albert, Corporal Thomas Chadband has no known grave and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial in Arras, France. Their names are amongst the names of almost 35,000 servicemen who died in the Arras sector with no known grave between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918. Some of those servicemen came from South Africa, and could well have been fighting against Tom at the start of his military career, now to be remembered alongside him.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regal. No.
CHADBAND.	Devon R	Cpl	18465
Thomas.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	8/2/100	270	
BARRAGE			
BAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Medal Record of Corporal Thomas Chaband

Sources

Devonshire Regiment – Boer War: <http://www.devonheritage.org/Nonplace/DevonReg/TheDevonshireRegimentintheBoerWar.htm>

Devonshire Regiment – First World War: <http://www.1914-1918.net/devons.htm>

5th Division: <http://www.1914-1918.net/5div.htm>

Second Battle of the Bullecourt: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Battle_of_Bullecourt#Second_Battle_of_Bullecourt_.283.E2.80.9317_May_1917.29