



ELLESMERE PORT WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

Private Jack TAYLOR
Private Thomas TAYLOR
11th Battalion Cheshire Regiment

The Taylor Brothers

Evan Taylor was born in Glamorgan in South Wales in 1850, and after working as a moulder in the local iron works, he moved to Dudley in Staffordshire to try his luck in the industrial heartland around Wolverhampton. He settled in Kingswinford (*right*) in 1872, finding work as a lead miner, met and married his wife Jane, their daughters Alice and Sarah being born shortly afterwards. After the birth of Thomas in 1881, Evan moved his young family to Ellesmere Port, finding work at the local iron works, settling in 4 Worcester Street, facing the parish church of Christchurch close to the canal dock terminus. Evan junior was born there in 1885, Mary Jane in 1887, followed by John in 1889 and Hannah in 1891. Evan was working for Burnell's Galvanised Iron Works, the main employer in the small town, and all his sons followed him into the same firm.



When war broke out, his sons Tom and Jack, joined up with the 11th Battalion Cheshire Regiment like so many more men from this area, including the Bousfield brothers, training and fighting alongside them. Both men were amongst those cut down, like Percy Bousfield, in the advance of 3 July on the Leipzig Salient on the Somme, the news carried by the local press in the following month,

BROTHERS KILLED IN ACTION

Ellesmere Port parents double bereavement

It is with extreme regret that we report the loss of two further Ellesmere Port men. Private Jack Taylor and Private Tom Taylor, sons of Mr and Mrs Evan Taylor of 7 Eleanor Street. Tom was about 35 years of age and Jack about 26, the former being employed at Burnell's ironworks. Both had been out nearly twelve months, and were in the Cheshires. The news of Jack's death came in a letter from W.L. Smith, who says,

'It is with the deepest regret that I write, but as one of Jack's first friends in the battalion I feel I must tender to you my sympathy in your loss. Both Tom and Jack took part in the charge on the 3rd July, and unhappily both were killed at practically the same time and many more of their friends. It will be some small consolation to you to know that they were killed instantaneously and suffered no pain. They were both well liked and respected, their cheerfulness and good steady characters gaining them many friends. At

such times we feel how small is any consolation we can offer. I trust God will help and comfort you in your great loss.'

The greatest sympathy is felt with the men's relatives in their loss. Jack Taylor was one of the most prominent workers in the parish church, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was a member of the Church of England Men's Society, a Sunday School teacher, and one of the chief helpers with the services for children held in the Institute on Sunday mornings. The vicar thought a great deal of him, and the last time Jack was home the Vicar was taken ill, and he was one who gave valuable assistance in church work at the time. His comrades in the C.E.M.S. will miss him very much, and his place as a church worker will be hard to fill, as rarely was a man so well liked by all. When he was home last, he said to his mother, 'Well mother, surely we won't both get killed together, and if anything happens to me, Tom will let you know and I will let you know if he comes to grief.' Unfortunately, this is just what happened, and their death has been confirmed by an Ellesmere Port man who was with them Private W. Jones. He saw one killed, and was going to tell his brother when he received the news that he also had been killed. In all Ellesmere Port's long roll of honour a sadder case has not been known, and the sincere sympathy of all Ellesmere Port people is extended to those who are bereaved.'

Cheshire Observer, 12 August 1916

Jack's body was recovered and he was later buried in Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, close to where the advance was made and where he fell. Thomas, sadly, was never found, and his name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, a few hundred yards away from Lonsdale, overlooking the battlefield site.



The Institute in Queen Street (now demolished) where Jack taught the Sunday school children

BROTHERS KILLED IN ACTION.



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
TAYLOR	Ches. R.	Pte.	24325
Thomas			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	8/2/101 ¹⁰	2925	and K.in A 3 ⁷ / ₁₆
BRITISH	do	do	
15 STAR	5/2/3 ^{B2}	1013	
Theatre of War first served in	1		
Date of entry therein	26.9.15.		

K 1380.

Medal Card

LONSDALE CEMETERY, SOMME



Lonsdale, within sight of the Thiepval Memorial (skyline, right) where brother Thomas is recorded

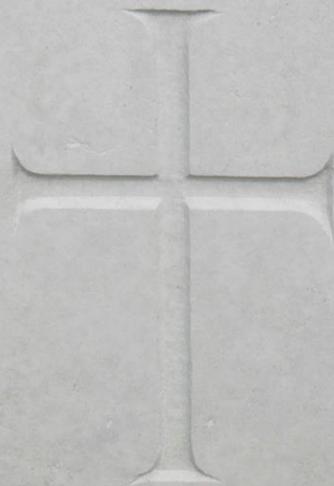




Lonsdale, John Taylor front far right.



XI/16868 PRIVATE
JOHN TAYLOR
CHESHIRE REGIMENT
3RD JULY 1916



IN SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE
OF THE RESURRECTION
TO ETERNAL LIFE



Thomas Taylor 24325 recorded on the Cheshire Regiment Panel on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Somme, France.



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