

William Thomasson

October 1895 – 1966

It is believed that his full name was **William Edwin Thomasson** and that he was born about **October 1895**. On the **1901** Census he is shown as living with his parents **William** and **Sarah Jane** (both aged 27), and brother **Arthur** (aged 4 months,) at **5 Wynne Street, Halliwell, Bolton**. Wynne Street is off Halliwell Road near the junction with Blackburn Road.

Father William was, in 1901, a 'Maker Up' in a Cotton Mill and was born in Manchester, as was his wife Sarah Jane. The two boys were born in Bolton.

SERVICE.
(for the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve.)

ATTESTATION OF *Wm. Edwin Thomasson*
Name *William Edwin Thomasson* LOYAL NORTH LANCESHIRE

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

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|---|---|
| 1. What is your Name? ... | 1. <i>William Edwin Thomasson</i> |
| 2. What is your full Address? ... | 2. <i>24 Ralph Street Bolton</i> |
| 3. Are you a British Subject? ... | 3. <i>Yes</i> |
| 4. What is your Age? ... | 4. <i>28</i> Years <i>1 1/2</i> Months |
| 5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... | 5. <i>Sider - Piecer</i> |
| 6. Are you Married? ... | 6. <i>No</i> |
| 7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... | 7. <i>No</i> |
| 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... | 8. <i>Yes</i> |
| 9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... | 9. <i>Yes</i> |
| 10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... | 10. <i>Yes</i> { Name of Hospital <i>off Hospital</i> Corps } |
| 11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions, provided His Majesty should so long require your services? For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours, and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th October, 1910, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Blomstedt Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months? | 11. <i>Yes</i> |

I, *William Edwin Thomasson* do hereby solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

William Edwin Thomasson SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Wm. Edwin Thomasson Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *William Edwin Thomasson* swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and loyal Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was examined by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as required, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at *Bolton* on this *9* day of *Dec* 191*5*.

Wm. Edwin Thomasson
Signature of the Justice

Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been completed with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the *1st* *LI. COL.*

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B, 2003 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date *29/12/15* 191*5* *LI. COL.* { Approving Officer.
Place *Bolton* *CONDOR DEPOT, L.R. LANE, REGT.*

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit. ‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.
* If so, the Recruit is to be asked if the particulars of his former service, and its duration, if possible, his Certificate of Exchange and Certificate of membership in the Regiment, which should be returned to him immediately indorsed in red ink, as follows, viz.—(Name)

0781

Family fortunes had changed for the worse by **1911**. **Sarah Jane** was a **widow**. She now had to work as a 'Washer Woman' at home to help look after her family.

William (the Edwin does not appear on the Census) was working as a '**Piecer Cotton Mill**' in 'Cotton Spinning'.

Arthur was at school but there are now two additional children **Harry** aged 8 and **Harold** aged 6. The Census shows that Sarah Jane had had five children - one a female. They were living in 38 Hennon Street, Bolton, which is off Shepherds Cross Road in Brownlow Fold.

The Army Record of Service shows that on the **9th December 1915 William Edwin Thomasson** enlists in Bolton with the **Loyal North Lancashire Regiment** as Private 23227. He is living now at 24 Ralph Street, Bolton literally round the corner from Hennon Street off Eskrick Street, and is single, aged 20 years and 1.5 months. His occupation is described as a 'Side Piecer'. On 29 February 1916 he is at the Regiment's Preston Depot. The Battalion landed at Le Havre in February 1917. His war service is not otherwise known but Medal Roll Index Card shows that he qualified for the Victory Medal and the British medal.

Research shows that he married a **Ciara Hardman** (father Thomas Hardman) who was born in Bolton in 1894. He emigrated to the United States of America arriving in Pennsylvania on 7th September 1923 and was shown on the US Federal Census aged 36 living at Stonington, New London, Connecticut, US.

He died in 1966 in National Park, New Jersey, US.