

Thomas Bulcock (1885 – *unknown*)

Thomas Bulcock's family moved to Farnhill from Lothersdale and when he was 15 years old Thomas was working as a worsted spinner.

He married when he was 24 and in 1915 started his active service in France. Promoted to Corporal, Lance-Sergeant and eventually full Sergeant, Thomas was injured on more than one occasion and sent back to the UK.

Returning to Farnhill at the end of the war, he and his wife sailed from Liverpool to Canada in 1923, with the intention of making their home there.

Although his wife did return to the local area, it is presumed that Thomas Bulcock lived the rest of his life in Canada and died there.

No Photo
Available

Pre-war life

Thomas Bulcock was born in Lothersdale on 13th September 1885. He was the son of Peter Bulcock of Lothersdale, a lime carter and stonemason's labourer, and Isabella (nee Carr), from Ingleton. Thomas had a number of older siblings and one younger sister.

The family appear to have moved to Farnhill in about 1895. By 1901 several of the older children had married and left home and the census of that year shows them – Peter and Isabella, Thomas and three of his sisters – living at number 8 Starkey Lane. Thomas, aged 15, was reported as being a worsted spinner.

Thomas's father, Peter Bulcock, died in 1903 and by 1905 the family had moved to 23 Starkey Lane.

On 1st September 1909, Thomas married Annie Clough at St. Andrew's Church, Kildwick.

1909. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Kildwick in the County of York								
Column No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
37	First September 1909	Thomas Bulcock	24	Bachelor	Carter	23 Starkey Lane	Peter Bulcock	deceased
		Annie Clough	28	Spinster	—	27 Starkey Lane	Charles Henry Clough	Overlooker of Weaves
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church by or after Banns by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		Thomas Bulcock	in the Presence of us,		Thomas Clough	John W Rhodes		
		Annie Clough			Ethel Bulcock	Mary Clough		

Bulcock – Clough wedding certificate
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The Clough family lived just two doors up the street from the Bulcocks, at 27 Starkey Lane. The newly-married couple didn't move far from their respective families and set up home at 33 Starkey Lane.

WW1 service

Thomas Bulcock attested his willingness to serve in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, at Skipton, on 12th September 1914. Some of his WW1 service records survive although they are not easy to interpret. It appears that he served with the regiment's 2nd, 8th and 10th battalions.

13057	SERGT.	BULCOCK Thomas.	13057 Sergeant	X
			10th W. Rid. R.	
			2nd W. Rid. R.	
			8th W. Rid. R.	

Extract from the West Riding Regiment WW1 Medal Roll – Thomas Bulcock serving with various battalions
Used under licence from the National Archive

On 26th August 1915 Thomas Bulcock started his service in France. This was almost certainly with 10th battalion which received orders to move abroad on the 23rd and which, up to this point, had been based in the UK. (The 2nd battalion had been in France since the start of the war and 8th battalion sailed from the UK for Gallipoli in July 1915.)

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
BULCOCK	WRidR	Sgt	13057
Thomas.		Sgt	

Medal.	Date.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	02/10/15	Sgt	
BRITISH	Do	Do	
15 STAR	02/30	35	
Theatre of War first served in:	France		
Date of entry thereon	26-8-15		

K 1330.

Thomas Bulcock's WW1 Medal Card – showing the date of his arrival in France
Used under licence from the National Archive

A newspaper report from the West Yorkshire Pioneer in November 1915 included Thomas in a list of the members of Kildwick and Farnhill Institute who would receive "Comforts for Our Lads". This strongly suggests that he was serving abroad at this time.

In the first part of June 1916, the 10th battalion was entrenched about two miles south of Bethune in the Pas-de-Calais. The weather was rather unseasonable and on 10th June the regimental war diary reported:

A thunderstorm broke out during the morning & was accompanied with very heavy rain. Dugout accommodation is very poor & consequently things are very unpleasant.

On the 12th:

Weather still continues bad. A few rifle grenades & trench mortar shells exchanged. We had two men wounded during the night. They were being employed on our wire.

and, on the 13th:

In the afternoon the enemy sent over a few heavy shells and he obtained a direct hit on one of the dugouts which was occupied by the Battalion Bombers. The result was 2 men killed, one man wounded, & 4 admitted to hospital suffering from shell shock.

Thomas Bulcock must have been a casualty in one of these actions as he left France on the 14th, arriving back in England on the 15th June 1916. He would be at home for the rest of the year.

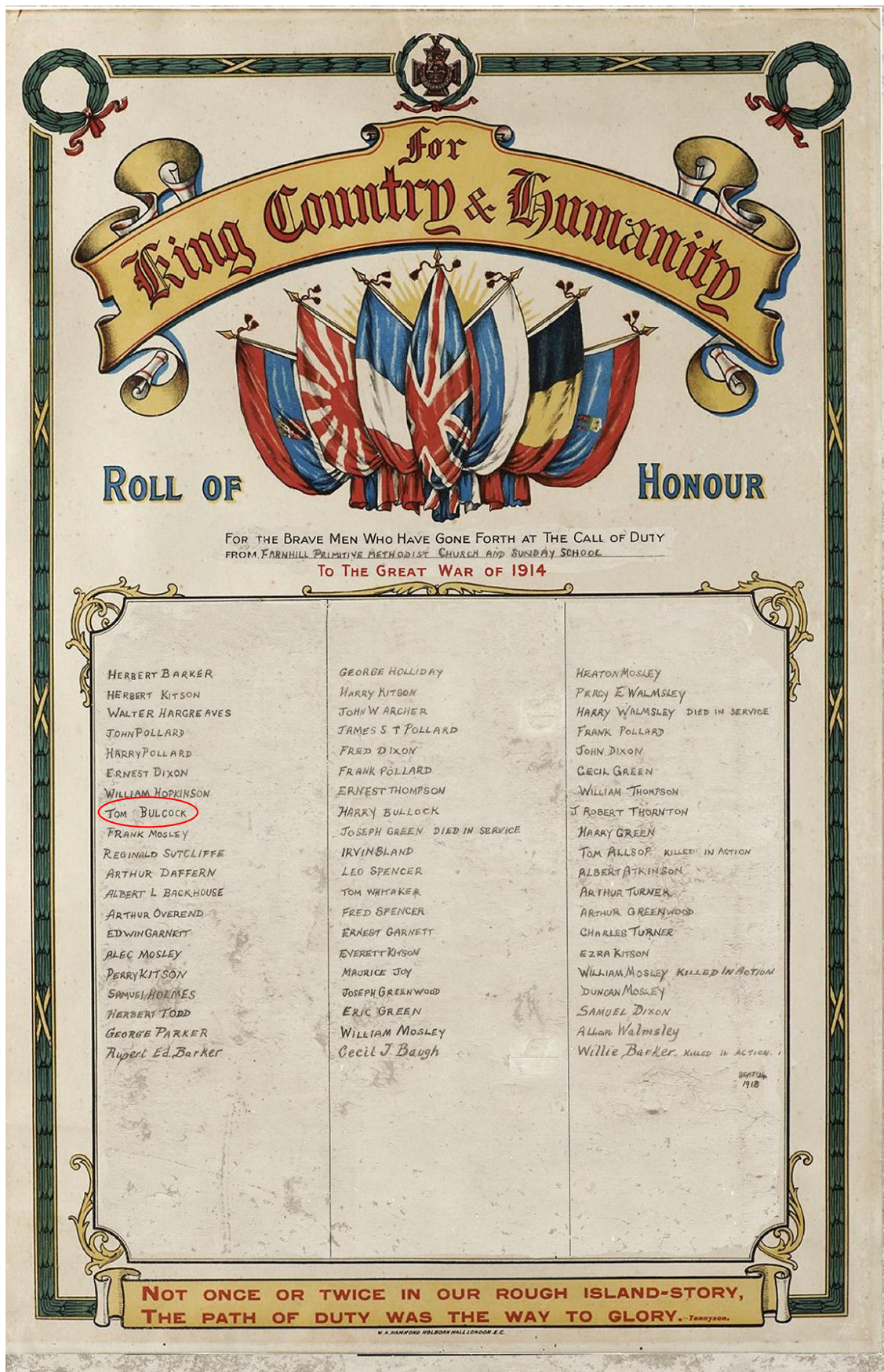
Thomas's name was recorded on Farnhill Methodist Chapel's Roll of Honour, unveiled on 9th July 1916. At this time he was back in the UK, but the news reports of the event do not mention him being present.

Thomas resumed his service in France on 4th January 1917 – this time probably assigned to 2nd battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, which was in billets a few miles southeast of the town of Albert in the Somme valley.

Accidents happen in wartime too and on 17th February Thomas, recorded as being a member of 2nd battalion, spent a day in a field hospital with a scalded left foot.

At this time the battalion was in the front line and although the situation was generally quiet, the regimental war diary reports a handful of men killed or wounded each day.

Perhaps Thomas was wounded in one of these actions, or he had a recurrence of shellshock, or perhaps his scalding was far more severe than his brief hospitalisation would suggest as, on 22nd February 1917 he was again brought back across the Channel.



The digitally-restored Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour (1916)

At the beginning of September 1917, after a gap of more than six months, Thomas again returned to the continent – this time with the 8th battalion. He was promoted to Corporal on the day of his arrival.

This was in the middle of the battle of Passchendaele, and the 8th battalion were heavily involved in the fighting, being stationed very close to the town of Ypres, in Belgium.

On 1st December 1917, Thomas Bulcock was promoted to Lance Sergeant, half a rung up the command structure.

In February 1918 the 8th battalion was disbanded and the men were assigned to other battalions in the regiment. 10 officers and 200 other ranks, including Thomas Bulcock, were transferred to the 2nd battalion.

In September 1918, Thomas received his final promotion, to full Sergeant, on the 17th.

On 3rd January 1919, a couple of months after the Armistice, Thomas returned home from the Western Front and was discharged from the army on 1st February.

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.					
1. Service at Home and Abroad.					
COUNTRY	FROM	TO	YEARS	DAYS	N.B.—The Country only to be shown—it is not necessary to show separately the service in the different stations of the same country. England, Scotland & Ireland to be shown under the general term "Home."
Home	12.9.1914	25.8.1915		348	
France	26.8.1915	14.6.1916		294	
Home	15.6.1916	3.1.1917		203	
France	4.1.1917	22.2.1917		50	
France	23.2.1917	3.9.1917		193	
France	4.9.1917	3.1.1919	1.	122	
Home	4.1.1919	1.2.1919		29	
				Total. Home. 143. Days	
2. Army School and other certificates of education.					
3. Passed classes of Instruction †					
† This includes any authorised class of instruction e.g., in swimming, chess, etc.					
4. Campaigns (including Actions) Medals and decorations.					
Home 12.9.1914 to 25.8.1915 France 26.8.1915 to 14.6.1916 Home 15.6.1916 to 3.1.1917 France 4.1.1917 to 22.2.1917 France 23.2.1917 to 3.9.1917 France 4.9.1917 to 3.1.1919					
5. Wounded					

For mode of computing Service Abroad, see King's Regulations.

INITIALS OF OFFICERS making the entry.

1914-15 STAR

1914-15 STAR

1914-15 STAR

9. Injuries in or by the Service		Wife		Annie Bulcock		H.C.	
10. Name and Address of next of kin		33 Starkey Lane		Farnhill Rugeley		PWS	
11. Particulars as to Marriage.	(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow, (b) place and date of marriage, (c) name of officiating Minister or Registrar and (d) names of two witnesses					Date of being placed on Married Roll	Initials of Officer.
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)			
	Annie Clough	P. Clough Kilworth 12th Apr 1909	Mr. Roach	H. Thomas Mary Thomas			PWS

Extracts from Thomas Bulcock's WW1 service record

Post-war life

After his WW1 service Thomas returned to Farnhill, where he and his wife, Annie, continued to live until 1923.

The 1921 census records the couple living at 33 Starkey Lane. Thomas was working as a horse driver for a coal merchant in Bingley; Annie was employed as a cotton weaver at Bairstow's Mill, Sutton.

On 7th April 1923 the couple embarked from Liverpool aboard the White Star liner SS Megantic, bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia. They gave their intended place of future permanent residence as being Canada. On her passenger declaration (Thomas's declaration has not survived), Annie reported that they planned initially to stay with her sister and husband, in Toronto.

Note: The project has been told by a member of the Clough family that this sister was Sarah Matilda Clough, who married Wilfred Holmes in 1918. They emigrated immediately after the war and Wilfred got a job building a new railway.



SS Megantic.

Photograph from Wikimedia Commons; [public domain](#)

This is the last known reference to Thomas Bulcock. The presumption must be that he lived the rest of his life in Canada and died there.

Postscript – Annie returns to Farnhill

Thomas may have stayed in Canada, but Annie certainly returned to Farnhill.

From 1930 onwards her name appears on the Farnhill electoral roll, living with her parents at 27 Starkey Lane.

In August 1935 she made another trip to Canada, sailing on the 24th from Southampton to Quebec and Montreal aboard SS Ausonia. This time she indicated that her place of intended future residence was the UK. The purpose of this visit to Canada is not known.

Annie returned to Farnhill and died in June 1940, aged 58. She was buried at Crosshills Ebenezer Chapel.



Annie Bulcock's fallen gravestone

Thomas Bulcock – a life in summary

Born: 13/9/1885, Lothersdale

Baptised: 11/4/1886, Lothersdale

Died: *Unknown*

Parents

Father: Peter; b. 14/11/1841, Lothersdale; d. April 1903, Farnhill; buried 21/4/1903, Kildwick

Mother: Isabella (nee Carr); b. 1847 (?), Ingleton;
d. March 1918, Farnhill; buried 30/3/1918, Kildwick

Married: 1864, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

William; b. 9/10/1866, Lothersdale; m.(1) Ann (nee Holmes), 17/2/1896, Steeton;
m.(2) Sarah Ann (nee Barlow), 1909;

d. July 1946, Farnhill; buried 24/7/1946, Kildwick St. Andrew's

Isabella; b. 26/12/1868, Lothersdale; m. Joseph Hopkinson, 21/6/1891, Lothersdale;
d. January 1916, Farnhill

Mary Hannah; b. 14/3/1870, Lothersdale; m. Richard Henry Spencer, 7/6/1902, Kildwick;
d. October 1944, Farnhill; buried 18/10/1944, Kildwick St. Andrew's

Agnes Ann; b. 28/4/1874, Lothersdale; m. Frank Stephenson, 1900, Skipton (Registration district);
d. 1918, Colne (Registration district)

Annie; b. 30/5/1877, Lothersdale; m. Perry Kitson, 23/6/1900, Skipton (Registration district);
d. April 1940 Farnhill; buried 4/4/1940, Kildwick St. Andrew's

Nellie; b. 3/7/1880, Lothersdale; m. Walton Barritt, 7/6/1919, Kildwick; d. December 1970, Nelson

Ethel; b. 29/11/1888, Lothersdale; m. Harry Barker, 15/8/1911, Skipton; d. 19/3/1955, Skipton

WW1 service

Attested: 12/9/1914

Service period: 26/8/1915 to 1/2/1919

Regt.: Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. (Private, later Sgt.; no. 13057)

Medals: 1915 Star, Victory Medal, British War Medal

Home address: 33 Starkey Lane, Farnhill

Relationship to other volunteers

Harry Bulcock – Thomas was Harry's paternal uncle

John William Clough – brother-in-law (1909)

Harry Barker – brother-in-law (1911)

Ernest Gibson – step-nephew (1909). Ernest Gibson's mother married Thomas's brother William

Marriage

Wife: Annie Clough; b. 1881, Farnhill; d. 13/1/1940; buried at Crosshills Ebenezer Chapel

Date: 1/9/1909, at St. Andrew's, Kildwick

Children

None known.

