

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



THOMAS DAVEY

NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS

KILLED IN ACTION 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1918

BORN IN 1899 AT KILDWICK, THE SON OF GEORGE AND  
JANE DAVEY

# Davey Family History

- **1901 census** shows George, his wife Jane and their 2 children living at 3, Overburn Rd, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
George William (Head)	30	Gas stoker	Farsley	1871 - 1927
Jane Annie (wife)	33		East Morton	1868 - 1949
William	3		Crosshills	1898 - 1975
Thomas	1		Crosshills	1899 - 1918

- **1911 census** shows that George and Jane had been married for 14 years and that of their 2 children born alive, both were still living. It also shows the Davey family still residing at 3, Overburn Rd, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
George William (Head)	40	Gas stoker	Stanningley	1871 - 1927
Jane Annie (wife)	43		East Morton	1868 - 1949
William	13	Worsted yarn spinner	Crosshills	1898 - 1975
Thomas	12	Worsted yarn spinner, school part time	Crosshills	1899 - 1918



Bay Horse overlooking Overburn Rd, Sutton-in-Craven  
(source: *Sutton-in-Craven, the old community* 1973 Edited by Alec Wood)

## World War 1



It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

# August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914

## Britain declares war on Germany

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as 'Kitchener's Volunteers'

## The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914

Parliamentary Recruiting Committee  
London, 1915 (March)





British volunteers queuing to enlist, 1914 (Kitchener's New Army)

Prior to enlistment, Thomas Davey worked as a clerk for Mr W. Judge, accountant, Skipton.

During the Great War, Thomas responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the 1st battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

His regimental number was 65422 and he commenced with the rank of Private.

During the Great War, the Northumberland Fusiliers raised a total of 51 battalions based on the original 2 regular, 1 reserve and 10 territorial force battalions. This made it the second largest regiment after the London Regiment.



WW1 postcard: Northumberland Fusiliers



Northumberland Fusiliers cap badge, WW1

Pte Thomas Davey first entered the Theatre of War in March 1918 when he arrived on the Western Front in France.

His older brother William also served in France during the Great War.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
DAVEY Thomas		Northd Lus.	Pte.	65422.
Medal.		Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY		07/105647	11422.	
BRITISH		do	do	
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Thomas Davey (source: *The National Archives*)

## The Western Front 1918

The Western Front was the name applied to the fighting zone in France & Flanders, where the British, French, Belgian and later American armies faced that of Germany.

It was marked by a system of trenches and fortifications separated by an area known as 'No Man's land'. These fortifications stretched 475 miles and precipitated a style of fighting known as trench warfare.

Just as there were quiet periods, there were also the most intense, savage, huge-scale battles the world has ever known.





British soldiers awaiting an attack

However, it was the Russian Revolution in 1917 that finally changed the nature of the deadlock and war of attrition in the west. Once the fighting had halted in the east, it allowed the Germans to transfer many Divisions to the Western Front. They knew that time was running out, for the United States of America had entered the war on the Allied side and it was only a matter of time before vast untapped reserves of manpower swung the balance in the favour of the Allies.

On the 11th November 1917, the German High Command decided to make a decisive attack in the west in the following spring. Their target was the British Army. They believed that the British were exhausted by the four major efforts in 1917 (Arras, Messines, Passchendaele and Cambrai).

By mid-February 1918, the Germans had moved many Divisions from the now collapsed eastern front to the west in preparation for this major spring offensive.

By the spring of 1918, the Allies knew that there would be a major German attack; they just did not know when it would come. The British reinforced their positions near the coast while the French strengthened their positions to the south of the British.



On March the 24th 1918, the Germans launched the massive offensive. In just five hours, the Germans fired one million artillery shells at the British lines, over 3000 shells fired every minute. This was the first of a number of large-scale, last-ditch offences throughout the spring and summer months of 1918.



Fallen British Soldiers

Having been in France for only 6 weeks, Pte Thomas Davey was **Killed in Action** on the 5th May 1918 whilst serving on the Western Front during the German spring offensive of 1918

**He was 19 years of age**

## CROSS HILLS AND DISTRICT.

Private Thomas Davey, of the West Riding Regiment, has made the great sacrifice. News was received by his parents, who reside at Overburn, Sutton, on Wednesday morning that their son had been killed in action on the western front. It is only six weeks since he went out to France after training. He was one of the first Sutton Troop of Boy Scouts (Sutton Church), and is about the third of the troop to lose his life in the war. He was a very active Scout worker, and prior to joining up was a clerk in the office of Mr. W. Judge, accountant, Skipton. He is the younger of two sons serving their country, his elder brother, Willie Davey, being out in France at the present time. He was 19 years of age.

Keighley News extract (source: photocopied by Josie Walsh)

CWGC

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

### Casualty Details

Name: DAVEY

Initials: T

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Private

Regiment/Service: Northumberland Fusiliers

Unit Text: 1st Bn.

Age: 19

Date of Death: 05/05/1918

Service No: 65422

Additional information: Son of G. W. and J. A. Davey, of 6, Overburn Rd., Sutton, Keighley, Yorks.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: IV. D. 37.

Cemetery: CHOCQUES MILITARY CEMETERY

(source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))



Article Date: 17 May 1918

Private Thomas Davey, Sutton

Private Thomas Davey, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, of Sutton, has made the supreme sacrifice. He was closely associated with St. Thomas's Church and Sunday School, Sutton, was a zealous member of the Church troop of Boy Scouts, and was formerly a clerk for Mr. W. Judge, accountant, Skipton. He had only been out in France six weeks. His brother, Willie Davey, is also out in France.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))

## CHOCQUES MILITARY CEMETARY



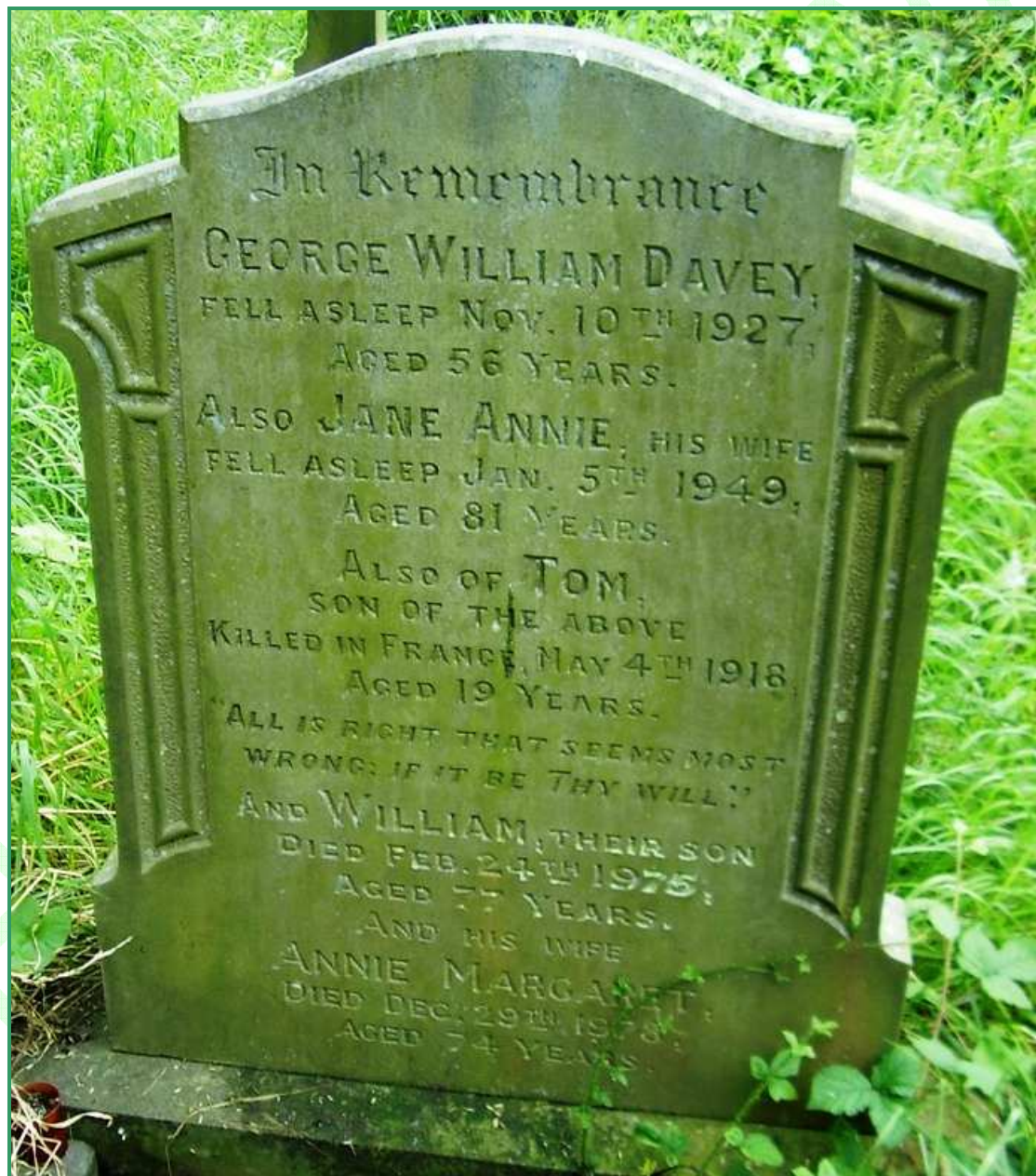
Chocques Military Cemetery in France

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))



The Chocques Military Cemetery in France contains 1,801 Commonwealth burials of the Great War, including the grave of Thomas Davey. It also contains 82 German war graves.

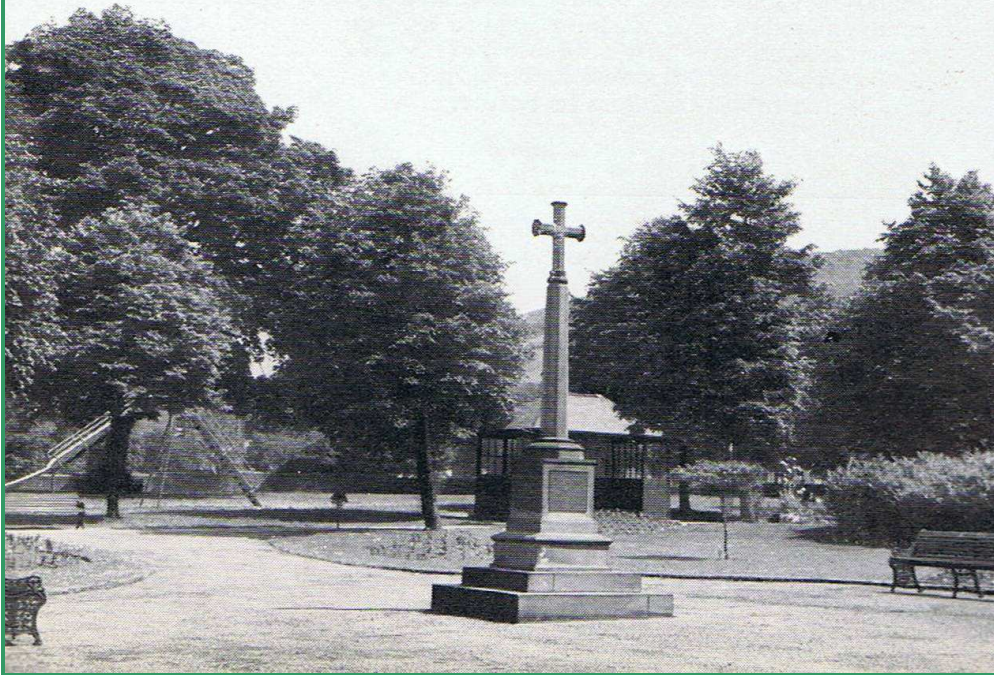
Thomas Davey is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial and on the tomb-stone bearing the names of his parents and brother William in the burial ground of St Thomas' Church



Tomb-stone in St Thomas' Church burial ground  
(photo taken by Josie Walsh)



WAR MEMORIAL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARK



(source: *South Craven, the official guide*, 1950)



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)



Pte Thomas Davey was posthumously awarded the  
British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original pair of WW1 medals (source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)  
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

## Lest we Forget

### CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



PRIVATE THOMAS DAVEY, Northumberland Fusiliers, of Sutton, killed in action May, 1918.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

(original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



# FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE  
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS  
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE  
MORNING*

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

**LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943**



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)