

Thomas Murley, the only son of Mr Thomas Murley and Thomasine Jane (nee Harry) his wife. He was born on the 13th of December 1897 and killed in the battle of the Somme on the 4th of September 1916, having the rank of sergeant in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (DCLI). He was unmarried. (St Just Book of Remembrance)

Thomas's name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. His name is one of over 72,000 on the memorial, over 90% of whom were killed during the 1916 Battle of the Somme.

Thomas Murley is probably one of the 221 men transferred en bloc from DCLI 10th to 251 Tunnelling Company on 29/9/1915. He subsequently transferred out of 251TC to the 1st DCLI.

The Cornishman report of his death includes a quote from his C.O. which includes the detail that Thomas's body was found by one of the chaplains and given a proper burial.

Theresa Jane Harry, Thomas's mother, is the sister of William Harry, father of William and Leo. When Thomas Murley's parents married in 1884 their witnesses were William Harry and Annie Taylor. Thomas Murley is the cousin of William and Leo Harry. Thomas is also cousin to Henry and Nicholas Murley who both served in WW1 and William John Murley who was killed on the Levant man engine.

Thomas was born in St Just but in 1903 at the age of 6 he travelled with his family to South Africa where his father was already working. At some point in the next few years his father, Thomas, died and his mother remarried to James Ayres Oats who had travelled to South Africa from St Just in 1904. Like Thomas Murley, James Oats was also a miner and like Thomas, he also

died in South Africa, in 1909. Young Thomas Murley, now aged 14, was back in St Just with his family by 1911. The family includes his two nieces, born in the Transvaal and aged 2 years and 1 year so they must have returned in 1909/10.

On 4 September 1916 Thomas Murley's unit, the 1st Battalion DCLI, were involved in the battle of Guillemont, part of the Battle of the Somme. The battalion had already suffered significant casualties. It was thrown into a rain delayed attack on Guillemont, a location which had been the subject of more or less constant fighting since July. 1st DCLI were part of the 5th Division which was involved in the initial advance on Falfemont Farm on the morning of Sunday 2 September 1916. Guillemont itself was captured by the 20th (Light) Division but the 5th Division were unable to take Falfemont Farm though they did break into the German second line. On Monday 3 September the 5th made another attempt on Falfemont and also on Leuze Wood. The farm was eventually taken on the morning of Tuesday 4 September, the action in which Sergeant Thomas Murley was killed.