



# Thame Remembers



## Private Thomas Bates

The son of George Thomas and Jane Bates, Thomas Bates was born in Thame in 1888 and baptised at St Mary's Church on 17th March 1889. After his mother died in 1890, his father married Elizabeth Crowdy, and Thomas continued to live with his father and stepmother, together with his 4 brothers and sisters and 2 step-siblings in Bridge Terrace, Thame. By 1911 at the age of 23 he had moved to Waddesdon to live with his sister Maud and her husband, working as a farm labourer.

In January 1916 he enlisted into the 43rd Battalion (Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada) at Shorncliffe, Kent (a major base for the Canadian Expeditionary Force). His enlistment papers record his birthplace as Inverness, Scotland, possibly to get over the battalions link with Scotland.

After only 5 weeks training at East Sandling camp he embarked to France in February 1916. Following a short spell in a field hospital with Myalgia, he was attached to the 177th Tunnelling Company, R.E. at the end of May. The Battle of Mount Sorrell started on the 2nd June, and he was posted missing. However, it was not until February 1917 that he was finally presumed dead, at which time his soldiers pay of \$20 Canadian per month was stopped.

He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres, and in Thame on the Thame War Memorial and the St Mary's and All Saints Memorial Boards.



**The  
Thame Remembers Cross  
was delivered to  
Menin Gate Memorial on  
30th October 2015  
by  
David and Jenny Dodds  
Thame Museum**

