



Albert Walker

1892 – 1916



Albert was born on 23rd April 1892 in Heckmondwike, the son of Ernest and Margaret (nee Howard) they were married on 8th June 1889 and had nine children, five of whom survived; Alice b.1894, May b.1899, Annie b.1904 and Frank b.1906. The family are recorded in Heckmondwike on the Census records of 1901 and 1911. Initially Albert worked as a timekeeper on the Lancashire and North West Railways, but at the time of enlisting he was employed as a blanket raiser at J. Fenton, Low Mills, Dewsbury Moor, the same occupation as his father.

He was a member of the Dewsbury Moor Nelson cricket team, captaining the second team, including during their successful 1915 season when they won the cup and medals.

Albert attested on 23rd August 1915 in the 9th Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) as Private S/11391. Just before his 22nd December 1915 embarkation to France, he married Eva Penistone (nee Moss)

Weeks later Albert's wife and parents, now residing at 105, Moor End Lane, Dewsbury Moor, received news of his death. The Rev. Gillenders of 33 Casualty Clearing Station, France wrote *"I am sure the news I have for you is not very good. Your husband has been wounded in the abdomen and has had an operation. He received very great care and attention from the medical point of view. I know that he surrendered his life to the service of Christ. He folded his hands just like a child and prayed so earnestly. There was no hope entertained of his life since he was wounded. He passed away at 5pm on 21st February, and was buried on the 22nd in Bethune Cemetery by me. Please accept my very sincere sympathy"*.

Another letter from Pte A. Howe of the Royal Army Medical Corps to his parents gave additional information. *"It is with sad regret that I inform on the death of your son, which happened yesterday. He came in our place on Saturday night wounded in the abdomen. He was operated on at once by Major Cuffe, of Sheffield, but the case proved to be hopeless. He was conscious nearly to the last, and did not suffer much pain.*

He did not know that death was so near, or he might have given me messages for you. I send my deepest sympathy to you and yours. You will have some consolation to know that, although he was wounded very seriously, he lived to come here and be buried by our men in military fashion. A cross, with full inscription, was put over the grave. I might tell you he was the one of the bravest wounded we have had".

Albert is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Albert's wife was pregnant. Their son Albert's birth was registered in the June Quarter of 1916.

He is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in the Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Albert Walker

S/11391, 9th Bn., Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) who died on 21 February 1916 Age 23

Son of Ernest and Maggie Walker, of Dewsbury Moor; husband of Eva Penistone Walker, of 16, Reform St., Westborough, Dewsbury Moor, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Bethune Town Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission