



Private Horace Waller V.C. 'Honour'd, Beloved and Mourn'd'



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES



BATLEY CARR V.C.
PTE. HORACE WALLER'S GREAT HONOUR.
"BRAVEST BOY I EVER KNEW."
HERO MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED.
BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOY.

Last evening, just as we were going to press, information came through to this office that the late Pte. Horace Waller, K.O.Y.L.I., son of Mr. John Edward Waller, plumber and glazier, 82, Upper Road, Batley Carr, had been awarded the V.C. In our issue of April 28th we published the fact that Pte. Waller, who was reported "missing," and believed to be killed, had been recommended for the highest honour it is possible for the King to bestow.

The communication received by Mr. Waller respecting his son from Capt. Air was as follows:—
 "Dear Mr. Waller,—It is with infinite regret I have to report that your son is 'missing,' believed killed. Words cannot describe the glorious fight he and his comrades made in certainly the most violent hand-to-hand fighting I ever witnessed. For an hour and a half in the first counter-attack he stood and bombed, and finally won. In the second and more violent attack he still held his post for an hour, fighting for half-an-hour after being wounded, until finally hit. I think the bravest boy I ever know is this son of yours. Many of my company are gone, but the loss of none goes more to my heart than the loss of Horace. Perhaps in the opinion of the higher command I have asked too much in asking for the highest of all honours for him. I fervently hope not. My Colonel has endorsed the recommendation, but rewards are only a tithe of the gratification you can feel for having produced so fine, so courageous, so British a man. So long as this company holds together the glory of his deeds will never die."

Pte. Waller attained the age of twenty last August. He spent the earlier years of his school career at Miss Whitworth's Seminary, Albert Terrace, Halifax Road, Dewsbury. At eight years of age he became a pupil at the Puritwell Council School, where in 1909 he won a free scholarship tenable at the Batley Grammar School. At the Grammar School, in 1910, he won a County Minor scholarship. At the age of seventeen he left the Batley Grammar School, and commenced working for his father, the proprietor of the well-known plumbing business of the late Mr. Strickland Waller (father of Mr. J. E. Waller). He displayed very commendable and workman-like qualities in learning his craft, and commenced a course of studies at the Dewsbury Technical School, and also at a kindred institution at Leeds. But right from the commencement of hostilities in France he longed to be in khaki. Twice he was medically examined and rejected, and still he was not satisfied. He made a third attempt to get into the Army, and he "scrapped" in as a Class C man. He joined the K.O.Y.L.I. on May 30th, and trained at Withersden. On December 14th he went to France. From time to time he wrote to his parents, and in one letter he said there had been so much rain that the communication trenches where he was stationed were full of water, and he and others had to expose themselves in "no man's land" in order to secure their rations.

