



Walter Garfitt

1895 - 1916

Walter was born in Ravensthorpe in 1895. His father was West Garfitt, a waterman/carter born in Leeds in 1858 and died in 1930. His mother was Sarah (née Crowther) born in Mirfield in 1858 and died in May 1916, a few months before her son. They were married in St Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 6th November 1886.

Their other children were; George, born in 1887, John, born in 1888 and died in 1889, William, born in 1891 and Frederick, born in 1893.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Havelock Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1901 at Duke Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 4, Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe.

Walter was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's Boy's School and Mirfield Grammar School and worked as a chemist's assistant at the premises of Howroyd and Oldroyd.

He attested in Huddersfield on 28th December 1914 serving as Private 3625 in the 5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was transferred into the 1st/5th Battalion on 23rd March 1915. He was sent to the Western Front on 14th April. In December 1915 near Ypres he sustained a bullet wound to the thigh and refused to leave his post until reinforcements arrived; he was treated in hospital at Wimereux on the French coast and was then sent back to England for further treatment and returned to the Western Front in May 1916. He sustained a shrapnel wound to the chest during the battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916 whilst the Regiment, as part of the 149th Division attacked the Salient around Thiepval village an area known as the "Pope's Nose" and died in a hospital on 5th September 1916. He was buried in Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension, Somme, France. Walter was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Forceville is a village some 10 kilometres north-west of Albert on the road to Doullens. The Communal Cemetery and Extension lie to the west of the village. Commonwealth forces took over this section of the front line from the French in 1915 and in early August, land to the south of the communal cemetery was set aside for military graves. Field ambulances were stationed in the village from February to July 1916. There are now 304 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this site, three of them in the communal cemetery adjoining the extension, which one of the first three Commonwealth (then Imperial) War Graves Commission sites to be built after the First World War.

Walter is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Parish Church.

In Memory of
Private
W Garfitt

3625, 5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 05 September 1916 Age 20

Son of Sarah and West Garfitt, of Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

