



Horace Waller VC

1896 – 1917

Horace was born in Batley Carr, Dewsbury on 23rd September 1896 and baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 15th of November of that year. His father was John Edward Waller a plumber, born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1936 and who worked in the family business of his father Strickland Waller. His mother was Esther (nee Myers) born in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1899. They were married in Pateley Bridge in 1891 and had one other child, John Strickland Waller, born in 1891.

In 1901 Horace and his father and brother were living with Strickland and Sarah Waller at 82, Upper Road, Batley Carr. John Edward Waller was remarried to Sarah Elizabeth Prescott in 1903. Horace was a single man who spent the early years of his school career at Miss Whitworth's Academy in Albert Terrace, Halifax Road, Dewsbury. At the age of eight he transferred to Purlwell Council School; in 1909 he won a place at Batley Grammar School and the following year won a Minor County Scholarship. He left the Grammar School at 17 years of age and entered the family plumbing business; he continued his studies at the Dewsbury Technical College and "*a kindred institution in Leeds*". Horace was a keen cyclist and spent many hours touring the Lake District and North Yorkshire, Often he would ride to York and because he was a keen swimmer (he was awarded a certificate whilst still at school for swimming a mile) he would plunge into the River Ouse and swim its breadth.

He served as Private 30144 in the 10th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was described as being of slender and slight build. He was twice rejected but "scraped in" as a Class "C" Man on the 30th May 1916 and was sent to France on the 14th December 1916. He was killed in action on 10th April 1917 south of Heninel, France and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions. He was buried in Cojeul British Cemetery, St. Martin-Sur-Cojeul, Pas-de-Calais, France. In addition to the Victoria Cross, Horace was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The citation from "The London Gazette," No. 30122, dated 8th June 1917, records the following: "*For most conspicuous bravery when with a bombing section forming a block in the enemy line. A very violent counter-attack was made by the enemy on this post, and although five of the garrison were killed, Pte. Waller continued for more than an hour to throw bombs, and finally repulsed the attack. In the evening the enemy again counter-attacked the post and all the garrison became casualties, except Pte. Waller, who, although wounded later, continued to throw bombs for another half an hour until he was killed. Throughout these attacks he showed the utmost valour, and it was due to his determination that the attacks on this important post were repulsed.*"

Horace is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Library and is magnificently remembered in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Memorial Plaque in Batley Grammar School to former pupils and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Horace Waller

V C

30144, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 10 April 1917 Age 20

Son of John Edward and Esther Waller, of "Laurel Bank," Heald's Rd., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Cojeul British Cemetery, St. Martin-Sur-Cojeul



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

