



Walter Ward

1892 - 1917

Walter was born in Earlsheaton on 1st July 1892 and baptised 14th August 1892 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton. His father was John Ward, a dyer in a woollen blanket mill born in Earlsheaton in 1861 and died in 1915. His mother was Hephzibah (nee Lee) born in Earlsheaton in 1864 and died in 1941. They were married at St. Peter's Church on 13th September 1891.

They had two more sons; Harold Lee, born in 1896 and was killed in action on 1st July 1916 and Norman, born in 1898.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Cross Street, Soothill Nether, Earlsheaton, in 1911 at New Street, Soothill Nether and later at 24, Commercial Street, Earlsheaton.

Walter was educated at Earlsheaton Church School and attended Highfield Congregational Sunday school. He was formerly employed by Messrs. H. Fenton and Sons, Savile Town as a Piecer. He was a member of Highfield Choir, Institute, and Cricket Club. He was married in Dewsbury in 1916 to Emily Firth (born in 1896 and died in 1929), they lived at 17, Elder Grove, Walker Street, Earlsheaton and did not have any children. Emily was remarried in 1920 to Victor Holdsworth (born in 1897 and died in 1958), they had two children.

He enlisted on 9th October 1916 serving as Private 41118 in the 7th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 9th January 1917. He was killed in action on 16th August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Walter was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death was not officially confirmed until July 1918.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

Walter is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in Earlsheaton St. Peter's Church and on the Memorial Plaque from the now demolished Earlsheaton Highfield Congregational Church relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Walter Ward

41118, 7th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 16 August 1917 Age 28

Husband of Emily Holdsworth (formerly Ward), of 35, Preston St., Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

