



## Walter Wilby

### 1898 - 1917

Walter was born in Wortley, Leeds on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1898. His father was Joshua Snowden Wilby, a Beamer in a woollen mill born in Ossett in 1864 and died in 1951. His mother was Emily (nee Cooper) born in Dewsbury in 1873 and died in 1944. They were married on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1897 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

They had another son; Edward, born in 1900 and recorded on the 1901 Census as "*blind from birth*". In 1911, Edward is a pupil at the Yorkshire School for the Blind at Kings Manor, York.

On the 1901 Census they lived at 4, Ailesbury Street, Wortley and in 1911 at 11, Bagshaw Street, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury.

Joshua was previously married in 1886 to Lucy Ellis (born in 1857 and died in January 1891). Their children were; Annie Elizabeth, born in 1887 and Edith, born in 1890. On the 1891 Census taken on 5<sup>th</sup> April, Joshua and his two children are living with his parents at 17, Victoria Street, Ossett.

Walter was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church School and was a noted footballer and swimmer. He was also described as: "*an energetic member of the Dewsbury Church Lads Brigade*". Prior to enlistment he was working as a greengrocer at Dewsbury Pioneers Industrial Society Limited.

He enlisted on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1916 serving as Private 29090 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1917 near Polygon Wood, along with five of his pals. 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.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 St. James' Mission Church War Memorial now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the Dewsbury Parish Church School Memorial Plaque.

In Memory of

Private

**Walter Wilby**

29090, 1st Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 25 October 1917 Age 19

Son of Mr. J. S. and Emily Wilby, of II, Bagshaw St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

**Tyne Cot Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

