



Harry Walton 1876 – 1915

Harry was born in Ravensthorpe in 1876. His father was William Walton, a Card Fettler born in Horbury in 1848. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Sutton) born in Ossett in 1852 and died in 1927. They were married in 1867.

Their other children were; Fred, born in 1868, Edith, born in 1870, Joe Crowther, born in 1873 and died in 1896, Walter, born in 1879, Willie Ernest, born in 1883 and Wilfred Baldwin, born in 1886 and died in 1887.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1891 at Norristhorpe Lane, Liversedge. Harry worked as a Messenger Boy in 1891.

In 1901 he was a Railway Signaller for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, which must have involved moving from place to place, as his first four children were born in different towns. He was married on 5th June 1897 to Mary Ann Anderson (born in Polmont, Scotland in 1876 and died in 1949) They had nine children; John William Townsend (Willie), born in 1897 and served in World War 1, Leonard Charles Freeman, born in 1899 and served in World War 1, Miriam Elizabeth, born in 1900 and died in 1904, Gladys Mary, born in 1902, Edith, born in 1903, Fred, born in 1906, Frank, born in 1908, Edward, born in 1910 and Norah, born in 1913. On the 1911 Census they lived at 14, Marriott Street, Eastborough, Dewsbury and later at 88, Cliffe Street, Dewsbury. Harry was a Fettler in 1911 and prior to enlisting he worked for the Cloth Hall Spinning Company. Mary was remarried in 1919 to Herbert Baldwin Green (born in 1884 and died in 1957).

His son Willie was in the same Regiment as his father and they fought together on the First Day of the Battle of Loos on 25th September, where he was wounded and returned home to recuperate.

He enlisted on 9th November 1914 serving as Private 16834 in the 10th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 9th September 1915. He was killed in action during the Battle of Loos on 26th September 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His date of death was not officially confirmed until 28th September 1916. An article appeared in the *Dewsbury Reporter* in April 1916 which quoted a communication from the War Office, it stated that; *'in view of the absence of definite news Pte Walton must for the present continue to be regarded as "missing" ... Having regard to the lapse of time and to the fact that he has not been traced as a prisoner of war, it is feared that this soldier can be no longer alive, and, as stated in the letter from this office of April 14th, 1916, it is probable that the question of acceptance of his death for official purposes will soon be considered.'*

Harry 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 Memorial Plaque from the now demolished St. Philip's Church relocated to Dewsbury Minster and on the Memorial Plaque in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist).

In Memory of

Private

Harry Walton

16834, 10th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 26 September 1915

Remembered with Honour

Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

