



## **Walter Cockburn Robson**

### **1878 – 1915**

Walter was born in Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland in 1878. His father was George Robson, a Wool Dyer born in Hawick in 1851 and died in 1918. His mother was Annie (nee Cockburn) born in Hawick in 1849 and died in 1899. They were married in Hawick on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1872.

Their other children were; Jessie, born in 1872, Mary, born in 1874, William, born in 1876, Annie, born in 1881 and Nellie, born in 1888.

Annie had a son, John Cockburn, born in 1869.

On the 1881 Scottish Census the family lived at 104, South Street, Hawick, in 1891 at 73, Whitley Street, Dewsbury.

George was remarried in Dewsbury in 1908 to a widow, Clara Senior (born in 1863 and died in 1936). They lived at 32, Halliley Street, Dewsbury and later at 9, Central Street, Dewsbury.

Walter enlisted in Leith, Edinburgh on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1896 into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Scots Militia with the Service Number 6585; he gave his occupation as a Carter. Around 1901 he enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Leinster Regiment with the Service Number 6337 serving in the South African Campaign (Boer War) and was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with Clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal. He continued as a regular soldier, rising to the rank of Serjeant and at some stage he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Leinsters. He was in India at the outbreak of World War 1, at which stage the Regiment returned to Ireland for a short time before they were sent to the Western Front on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1915. He was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1915 near Fontaine-lès-Cappy, Somme, France and was buried with 21 others in Fontaine-lès-Cappy Churchyard Extension. In February 1921 he was reburied in Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Walter was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Hangard is a village 5 kilometres south of Villers-Bretonneux. The Communal Cemetery is a little east of the village on the north side of the road to Demuin and the Extension is on the west side of the Communal Cemetery. At the end of March 1918, Hangard was at the junction of the French and Commonwealth forces defending Amiens. From 4<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April, the village and Hangard Wood were the scene of incessant fighting, in which the line was held and the 18<sup>th</sup> Division were particularly heavily engaged. On 8<sup>th</sup> August, the village was cleared by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles. The original extension to the communal cemetery was made by the Canadian Corps in August 1918. It consisted of 51 graves but was greatly increased after the Armistice when graves were brought in, mainly from the battlefields of Hangard and Hangard Wood and from smaller cemeteries. The extension now contains 563 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 294 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to eight casualties known to be buried among them.

Walter is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour at Dewsbury Central Library and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of  
Serjeant  
**W Robson**

6337, 1st Bn., Leinster Regiment who died on 27 September 1915

Stepson of Mrs. C. Robson, of 9, Central St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
**Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

