



William Edward Walsh

1866-1918

William was born in Dewsbury on 3rd October 1866 and baptised in St. John the Baptist Church, Halifax on 30th June 1867. His father was George Walsh, a Mason born in Halifax in 1834 and died in 1874. His mother was Ann (nee Bennett) born in Dundee, Scotland around 1839 and died in 1899. They were married in St. John the Baptist Church, Halifax on 5th March 1859.

Their other children were; Joseph, born in Halifax in 1860, Mary Jane, born in Halifax in 1862, Elizabeth Ann, born in Dewsbury in 1864 and Emily Alice, born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1890.

On the 1871 Census the family lived at Peel Street, Dewsbury, in 1881 at Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury and in 1891 at Soothill Terrace, Hanging Heaton.

Ann was remarried in 1875 to James Hoyle Maguire (born in Huddersfield in 1854 and died in 1897) they had two children; Edith Emma, born in 1877 and James Hoyle, born in 1879.

William was a single man who in 1881 worked as a Piecener and on the 1911 Census he is living at South Parade, Ossett; his occupation was a Wireman for a Telephone Company.

He served in the Army for many years before the outbreak of World War 1, enlisting in 1889 into the King's Own Scottish Borderers with the Service Number 3072 and served for nine years in India including the Chitral Campaign in 1895. He returned to civilian life but was retained as a reservist and at the outbreak of the South African War (Boer War) he was recalled to the colours for the whole duration of hostilities from 1899 to 1902. For these two periods of service he was awarded the India Medal with the relief of Chitral Clasp and the Queens South Africa Medal for 1899-1901 with 3 Clasps and the King's South Africa Medal for 1902. He was discharged after this campaign and returned once more to civilian life.

He volunteered at the outbreak of World War 1 rejoining his old regiment the King's Own Scottish Borderers as Private 8387 and was sent to the Western Front on 10th February 1915, he was transferred to the Royal Engineers as Sapper 107366 serving in the Signal Section Training Centre (Bedford) and was posted to the Italian Campaign in 1917; he came home on leave in July 1918 where he contacted a cold but returned to his regiment against the wishes of his friends and family. At the beginning of November he was sent home as a stretcher case to the Tranmere Auxiliary Hospital, Birkenhead, Cheshire where he died of pleurisy on 15th November 1918; he was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

William is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of
Sapper

William Edward Walsh

107366, Signal Sect. Training Centre (Bedford), Royal Engineers who died on 15 November 1918

Son of George Walsh. Served in the Chitral Campaign (1895) and in the South African Campaign with K.O. Scottish Borderers.

Remembered with Honour
Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

