



## Oliver Walker 1893 – 1915

Oliver was born in Dewsbury in 1893. His father was John Walker, a Coal Hower, born in Leeds in 1872 and died in 1953. His mother was Florence (nee Scott), born in Dewsbury in 1873 and died in 1918. They were married in St. Mark's Church, Dewsbury on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1893. John enlisted on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and served at home but was discharged as unfit on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1915.

Their other children were; Robert, born in Normanton in 1900, Ernest, born in Dewsbury in 1907, Lily, born in Dewsbury in 1908 and George, born in Dewsbury in 1911 and died in 1911.

Florence had a son; Fred Scott, born in 1890.

On the the 1901 Census, the family lived at 9, Stanley Street, Normanton and in 1911 at 17, Marriott Street, Eastborough, Dewsbury.

Oliver was a single man who worked as a Twister in a Woollen Mill.

He served as Private 26052 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was killed in action near Ypres during the Battle of Hill 60 on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1915; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Oliver was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and who have no known grave.

A letter which Oliver had written to his parents was featured in the Dewsbury District News on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1915 under the headline; "*Amazing Good Luck*". Sadly, his good luck ran out as he was killed a week before the article was published.

*"I am in the best of health and enjoying myself. I have not had time to write, having being busy in the trenches. I have had a spell of 14 days in them, and am feeling tired. We have come out for a welcome rest, and I am glad to say with a good heart, knowing that we have done well. We are still keeping up the good name of the Yorkshires. I am sorry I have lost my chum for the time being; he got wounded in the shoulder, but I hope he won't be long before he is back, for it is more comfortable in a trench with a pal by your side. I have been very lucky to escape, for I have been in the tightest hole I ever want to be in. We had two hours of very hot work with bombs dropping on every side of us. Had it not been for my equipment I should have got a nasty wound. I have two holes in my haversack that I can get my fist into, so I can consider myself lucky. Every time I look at my haversack I think if I had got those holes in me my days would have been over. About two days after that I had another shock. I was on the look-out when a piece of shrapnel took my hat off and went straight through it. I am going to stick to my hat, and bring it home as a souvenir."*

Oliver 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 in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist).

In Memory of

Private

**Oliver Walker**

20652, 1st Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 May 1915

Remembered with Honour

**Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**WALKER O.**