



Walter Risdon

1894-1918

Walter was born in Burley-in-Wharfedale, Yorkshire in 1894. His father was John Albert Risdon, a Mill Engineer born in Shipley in 1865 and died in 1937. His mother was Mary Elizabeth (nee Bland) born in Burley-in-Wharfedale in 1864 and died in 1939. They were married in 1888.

Their other children were; Thomas, born in Burley-in-Wharfedale in 1889, Ruth Jane, born in Burley-in-Wharfedale in 1891, Nellie, born in Dewsbury in 1895 and died in 1895, Albert, born in Dewsbury in 1897, Frank, born in Dewsbury in 1898, Eve, born in Dewsbury in 1900, Alice, born in Dewsbury in 1901 and Ethel, born in Dewsbury in 1903.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 7, Peel Place, Burley-in-Wharfedale, in 1901 and 1911 at 48, Longcauseway, Dewsbury.

Walter was educated at Wheelwright Grammar School and attended the Centenary Wesleyan Church and Sunday school and was a member of the 1st Dewsbury (Centenary) Boys Brigade in which he held the rank of Serjeant. He worked in the Central Grocery Stores of the Dewsbury Pioneers' Industrial Society Limited and was married to Emily Ledgard (born in 1895 and died in 1989 aged 104) at the Wesleyan Methodist Centenary Chapel, Dewsbury on 22nd December 1917 when he was already a serving soldier. They lived with Emily's family at 2, Thornville Terrace, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury and had no children. Emily was remarried on 22nd April 1922 at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown to Ralph William Idle (born in 1894 and died in 1943); they had a son, Dennis, born in 1923. She remarried again in 1955 to Thomas Hartley.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in August 1915 serving as Private 24147 in the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards; he was wounded in the leg in September 1916 and came home on leave in December 1917 to get married. He was killed in action in France on 25th August 1918 and was buried in the field; in December 1919 his remains were reburied in Mory Abbey Military Cemetery, Mory, Pas-de-Calais, France. Walter was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Mory is a village between Arras and Bapaume, and about 2 kilometres east of the village of Ervillers. The Cemetery is 450 metres north of the village on the north side of the road to Ecoust-St. Mein opposite a large farm called "L'Abbaye". Mory Abbey Military Cemetery now contains 619 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. 101 of the burials are unidentified, but there is a special memorial to one casualty known to be buried among them.

Walter is 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 to the fallen pupils of Wheelwright Grammar School and on the War Memorial on the outside wall of the Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill.

In Memory of

Private

Walter Risdon

24147, 1st Bn., Grenadier Guards who died on 25 August 1918 Age 24

Son of John Albert and Mary Elizabeth Risdon; husband of Emily Risdon, of 2, Thornville Terrace,
Huddersfield Rd., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Mory Abbey Military Cemetery, Mory



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

