



Ernest Walker

1896 – 1916

Ernest was born in Earlsheaton in 1896. His father was John William Walker, a Card Cleaner born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1937. His mother was Mary (née Spink) born in Earlsheaton in 1865 and died in 1902. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 24th May 1890.

Their other children were; Walter, born in 1890 and Hannah, born in 1892.

On the 1901 Census the family lived in Sheep Hill, Earlsheaton at the home of George Spink, Mary's widowed father.

John was remarried in 1903 to Elizabeth Firth (born in 1877); they had a son, Eric, born in 1906. They lived at 8, Thornhill Road, Westtown, in 1911 at 86, Thornton Street, Dewsbury and later at 17, Foundry Street, Ravensthorpe.

Ernest was a single man who attended St. John's Church and was a regular member of Mrs. Sangster's Bible Class. He worked as a spinner at Messrs Robert Swire and Sons, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted as Private 16303 in the 7th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers on 4th January 1915 and was sent to the Western Front on 10th July that same year, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. The Battalion subsequently merged with the 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers to become the 6th/7th Battalion. He was killed in action near Fricourt during the Battle of the Somme. Initially reported as missing, his date of death was officially confirmed as 12th August 1916, but it was not until 2nd June 1917 that the Dewsbury Reporter published the War Office's conclusion which had been notified to his family. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Ernest 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church and on the War Memorial in the Providence Independent Methodist Church, Thornton Street, Dewsbury and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

Ernest Walker

16303, 6th/7th Bn., Royal Scots Fusiliers who died on 12 August 1916 Age 20

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

