



Edward Walter Triffitt MM

1896 - 1917

Edward was born in Whitecote, Bramley, Leeds on 7th March 1896; his birth name was registered as *Walter Edward Triffitt*. His father was Jackson Triffitt, a Blacksmith and later a fitter on the electric tramway born in Holme-on-Spalding Moor in East Yorkshire in 1865 and died in 1940. His mother was Mary Hannah (nee Moxon) born in Liverpool in 1866 and died in 1951. They were married on 22nd June 1891 at St. Matthias' Church, Burley, Leeds.

They also had a daughter; Mabel Dorothy, born in Stanningley, Leeds in 1891.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 28, Vernon Road, Pudsey, in 1911 at Croft Villas, Halifax Road, Dewsbury and later at Mitre Farm, 20a, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury.

Edward was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School; he was a chorister at both Batley Carr and Ravensthorpe Churches and previously at All Souls Church, Leeds. He worked in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry for Messrs Jas. Smith and Sons in Ravensthorpe and previously for Messrs Ridgway and Ridgeway, Solicitors and at Foxsons Doubling Mill in Staincliffe.

He served as Driver 780180 in the 246th (West Riding) Battery Royal Field Artillery having previously served in the Royal Horse Artillery with the Service Number 1227. He had joined the Heckmondwike Battery of the Royal Field Artillery in 1913 and was mobilised on the outbreak of war in August 1914 and was sent to the Western Front on 10th April 1915. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field when on 20th July 1916 the enemy were bombarding his battery with poison gas shells, he ran about fetching things for the doctor and assisting and comforting the wounded after which he became the orderly of Major E.W. Pickering of the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Battery. He was badly wounded by a shell burst on 29th March 1917 at Neuve-Chapelle in France, his left arm was blown off and he was also hit in the body and legs. He died of his wounds at the 1st/2nd Casualty Clearing Station at Merville on 30th March 1917. He was buried in Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. In addition to the Military Medal Edward was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Merville is a town 15 kilometres north of Bethune and 20 kilometres south-west of Armentieres. It was the scene of fighting between the Germans and French and British cavalry early in October 1914 but from the 9th of that month to 11th April 1918, it remained in Allied hands. It was a railhead until May 1915, and a billeting and hospital centre from 1915-1918. On the evening of 11th April 1918, in the Battles of the Lys, the Germans forced their way into Merville and the town was not retaken until 19th August. The cemeteries were not used again until the concentration of battlefield burials into the Extension began, after the Armistice. Merville Communal Cemetery Extension now contains 920 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 345 of them unidentified.

Edward is commemorated as *Edward W. Triffitt* on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *E.W. Triffitt* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and as *Edward Walter Triffitt* in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919.

In Memory of

Driver

Edward Walter Triffitt

M M

780180, 246th (West Riding) Bty., Royal Field Artillery who died on 30 March 1917 Age 21

Son of Jackson Triffitt and Hannah Mary Triffitt, of 20A, Staincliffe Rd., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Merville Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.