



## **Willie Walker**

### **1890 - 1917**

Willie was born in Ravensthorpe on December 26<sup>th</sup> 1890. His father was Benjamin Walker, a card and comb cleaner in a woollen mill born in Mirfield in 1859 and died in 1930. His mother was Martha (nee Kilroy) born in Dewsbury in 1862 and died in 1898. They were married at St. Saviours Church, Ravensthorpe on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Their other children were; Mary Kilroy, born in 1883, George Charles, born in 1884, Freddy, born in 1885, Alfred, born in 1887, James Harry, born in 1892, Albert Edward, born in 1894. George, James and Albert also served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at the home of Benjamin's widowed mother Mary Walker in Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1901 and 1911 at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe.

Willie was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's Church School. He worked as a warper for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Calder Mill and played for Ravensthorpe Clarence Football Club

He enlisted in 1915 into the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 25159 and was sent to the Western Front that same year. He was killed in action on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1917 during the First Day of the Battle of Cambrai, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Willie was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Cambrai Memorial commemorates 7,120 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known. The Memorial stands on a terrace in Louverval Military Cemetery, situated south of the small village of Louverval which is 13 Kms north-east of Bapaume and 16 Kms south-west of Cambrai.

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

In Memory of

Private

**Willie Walker**

25159, 7th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 November 1917

Remembered with Honour

**Cambrai Memorial, Louverval**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

