



Walter Clegg 1891 – 1915

Walter was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was James Oakes Clegg, a Warehouseman and later a Waiter at an Inn; born in Batley Carr in 1843 and died in 1902. His mother was Agnes (nee Murphy) born in Doncaster in 1868 and died in 1920. They were married in Doncaster in 1890.

Their other children were; Lena, born in 1893, Newman, born in 1894 and served in World War 1 and Herbert, born in 1896 and was killed in action 25th September 1916.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 3, Wood Hill, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 10, Mallinson Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 16, South Woodbine Street, Dewsbury.

James (usually referred to as Oakes) had previously been married in Castleford in 1865 to Emma Monkman (born in 1848 and died in 1876). They had six children; Thomas Henry, born in 1865, Kate, born in 1866, James Arthur, born in 1869 and served in World War 1, Walter, born in 1870 and died in 1889, Eliza, born in 1873 and Mary Ann, born in 1875.

Walter was a single man who worked in the beaming department of Messrs J. Newsome and Sons Woollen Mill in Batley Carr.

He attested in Dewsbury serving as Private 18725 in the 6th Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 21st May 1915. He was killed in action in Flanders on 5th October 1915. According to one of the accounts of his death in the *Dewsbury District News* on 16th October 1915, he was serving as a stretcher bearer and whilst attending to a wounded comrade he was hit by a trench mortar and died instantly. He was buried in Elzenwalle Brasserie Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Walter was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Elzenwalle Brasserie Cemetery is located 5 km south west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre, on the road connecting Ieper to Kemmel. The cemetery is named from a brewery which stood opposite and is in fact a collection of small regimental burial grounds, of which Plot III in particular was made by the 22nd Battalion Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment). The eight plots are numbered neither in order of date nor in order of position, and the short rows vary from one grave to fourteen, but they record the names of the units which held the trenches on this front from February 1915 to June 1917, and of some of those which, from June to November 1917, held the forward line won in the Battle of Messines. Elzenwalle Brasserie Cemetery contains 149 First World War burials.

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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Private
W Clegg

18725, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 05 October 1915

Remembered with Honour
Elzenwalle Brasserie Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

