Walter Appleyard





Rank: - Private

Number: - 35681

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers (formerly 5479 KOYLI) 21st Tyneside Scottish Battalion

Killed in Action: - 9th April 1917 aged 22years

Cemetery: - Bailleul Road East Cemetery, Saint Laurent Blagny, Pas-de-Calais, France 1.A.26

Batley News, 28 Apr 1917 (photo)

Family Details.

Walter was born in Batley in c1895 the youngest son of Frederick and Hannah Appleyard (nee Wilson). The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 24th February 1878.

In 1901 the family which consisted of Frederick, a power loom tuner from Skelmanthorpe, Hannah from Batley, Albert Edward (1879), Irvin (1880), Amy (1883) and Walter was living at 19, Suffolk Street, Batley.

Margaret born 1885 had died in May 1887 aged 17 months, Mary born January 1886 died May 1886 aged 4 months, Clara born 1889 had died aged 4 in May 1893,

In 1911 the family was still living at the same address in Suffolk Street, Batley.

Walter was associated with Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday school also being a former member of the Chapel's Boys' Brigade. He played with the Sunday School football team. Prior to joining the Colours he was employed in the milling department of Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mills, Batley.

Frederick died in September 1911

Service Details

Walter enlisted in June 1916.

The Northumberland Fusiliers 21st Tyneside Scottish came under the orders of 102nd Brigade in 34th Division.

In 1917 the Division took part in the First Battle of the Scarpe, Second Battle of the Scarpe and the Battle of Arleux which were all phases of the Arras offensive. The 1st Battle of the Scarpe took place between 9th April-14th April 1917 and it would have been on the opening day of this battle when Walter was killed.

Private J. W. Horne of 2, Rink Parade, Batley wrote a letter to Walter's mother dated April 19th: -

"I am very sorry to have to tell you that my chum Walter was killed in the advance last week, I cannot tell you how sorry I am for you and how I miss him. We have been pals since coming to this Battalion and I have always stuck together. I know

it will be a terrible loss to you, and I hope God will give you strength to bear it. We exchanged addresses before going over and promised to write if anything happened. I cannot write anything else as I feel so much, but if there is anything, I can do for you I shall only be too pleased."

In a letter home Private Horne says they had not gone far over the parapet when he saw his chum fall.

Walter was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and Batley War Memorial.

