

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT U3A DODWORTH FAMILY HISTORY

DODWORTH WAR MEMORIAL GROUP REMEMBERS

PRIVATE

FRED WALSHAW



17271

**6TH BATTALION KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS
(K.O.S.B.)**

DIED 25TH SEPT 1915

AGED 26

Private Fred Walshaw 17271 6th Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB)

Fred was born in Dodworth in 1889, the youngest child of John Woodhead Walshaw and Anne (nee Barrow). They were both born in Cumberworth, Yorkshire as were their first three children, they came to live in Dodworth sometime before 1880 and lived at 6, Pilley Hill, Dodworth. In 1887 they sadly lost their youngest daughter Martha Ann aged 1 she was buried in St. John's churchyard Dodworth. When Fred was born he was the youngest of eight children. Sadly the family were to lose another child with the death of their eldest daughter Rebecca aged 21, she too was buried in St John's churchyard on 16th Sept 1892 Some time after this the family moved to Glass Houghton, Castleford, Yorkshire. In 1900 John Woodhead aged 49 died in Glass Houghton, he was brought back to Dodworth for burial in St. John's churchyard on 3rd October. Ann also died at Glass Houghton in January 1911, she too was buried in the same churchyard as her husband on 12th January 1911. It is thought they were returned to be buried in Dodworth because their two daughters were already buried here.

After his mother's death Fred went to live as a boarder with the Hayward family at Wheldale Lane (Wheldon Rd.) in Castleford. William Hayward and 3 of his daughters were employed at the local bottle works (Lumb's). Fred worked as miner at Fryston number 1 colliery, Castleford.

On 16th August 1911 Fred at the age of 22 married William Hayward's youngest daughter, Elizabeth age 20 at Castleford Parish church. William Walshaw one of Fred's twin brothers was witness at the wedding. The following year their son Leslie was born and in 1913 a daughter Lily was born.

After the outbreak of World War 1 Fred enlisted in December 1914, probably in a local regiment only to be transferred to the 6th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers (K.O.S.B.)

The K.O.S.B. was formed at Berwick on Tweed in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First Army. They were a battalion of the 28th Brigade in the 9th Division, under Major General G. Thesiger. They moved to Bordon, March 1915 and then onto Bramshott, East Hampshire. The Battalion were mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne, France on 12th May 1915 and by September were in Northern France near Loos.

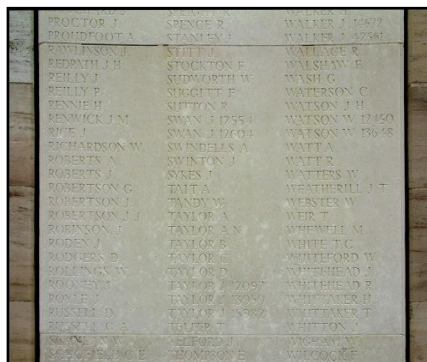
The overall plan at this time was that the French and British Armies were to attack the German 6th army on a 20 mile front in France between Arras and Le Bassee. The British First Army was to break through the German defences on the northern part near Loos. The Germans were to be attacked at the Battle of Loos by 6 British Divisions including the 9th. This attack was known as "The Big Push" because never before had so many men been involved in such an attack. At the commencement of the battle poison gas was to be used for the first time by the British Army, because there was a shortage of artillery.

The 6th K.O.S.B. were to be involved at the very start of the attack as part of the first wave of 28th Brigade near Auchy north west of Lens. They were tasked with attacking Hohenzollern Redoubt and Fosse 8, German strongholds on higher ground which overlooked the flat battle area in front. On the morning of the first day of battle on 25th September 1915 gas was released but some drifted back behind the men and also gave no cover in no man's land. They were able to advance towards the wire but soon the German machine gunners were gunning down rows of men from a higher position, many men were killed or pinned down.

The 6th K.O.S.B. suffered heavy losses at the Battle of Loos and the opening day was the worst day for casualties of many Scottish battalions.

Fred died in the morning of the first day's battle, according to Ernest Holmes who enlisted at the same time as Fred, he sent a letter to Fred's wife saying, they were in a dugout and Ernest was within 2 yards of Fred when a German shell burst there causing the dugout to fall in burying Fred and 2 others. Although they got him out quickly Fred was already dead and the other 2 died later that day. It is assumed that Fred was buried but he is one of the very many who does not have a known grave.

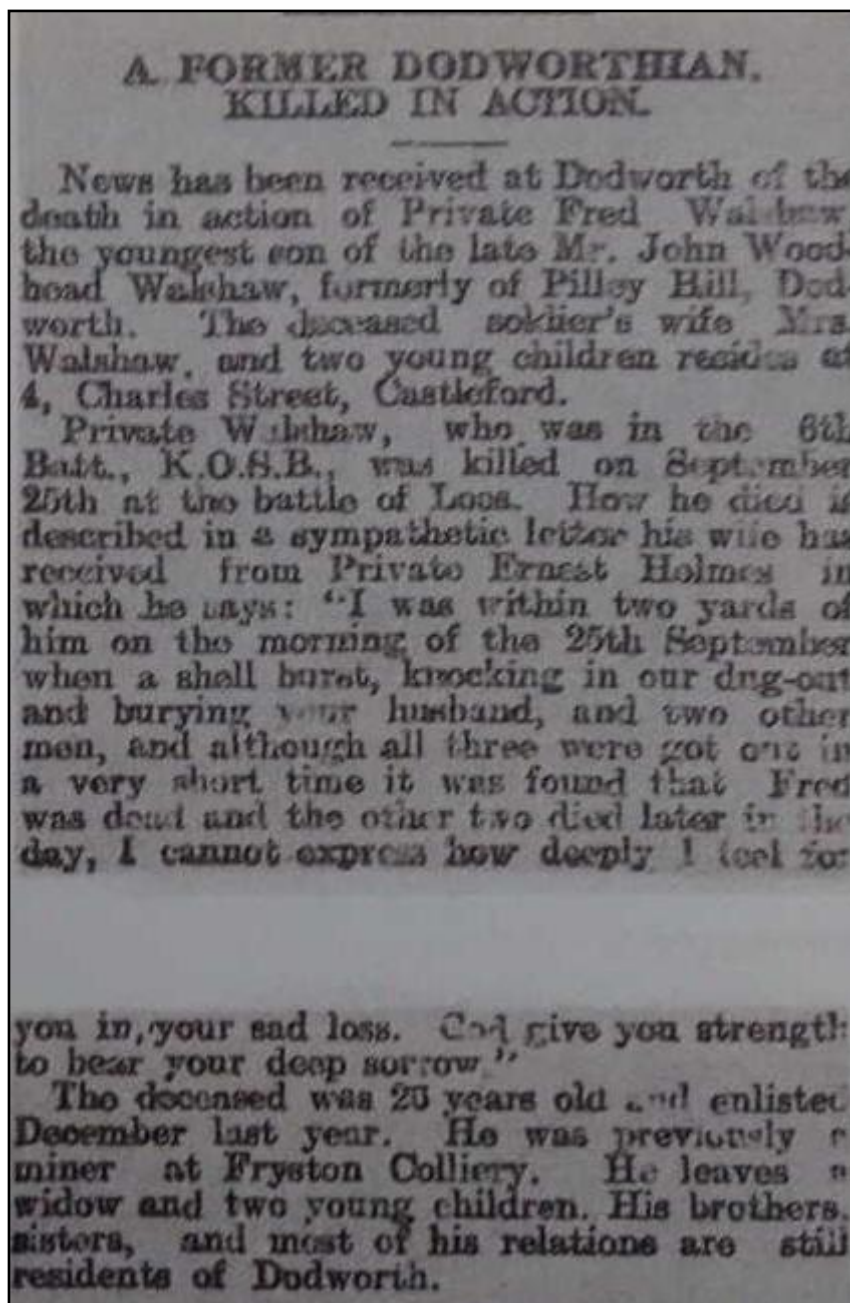
Fred Walshaw is remembered on Loos memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 53 to 56.



The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20000 men who died in this area from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war.

Fred is also remembered on Dodworth World War 1 memorial.

A Newspaper report at the time of Fred's death



Fred was awarded the British and Victory medals and also the Star that was given to men who were involved in the early part of the war. These along with his soldier's effects were sent to his wife Elizabeth.



A death plaque and accompanying certificate were also sent to Fred's wife. The plaque is often known as a death penny.



Acknowledgements: .Barnsley Archives, Barnsley War Memorial Project, Find My Past, Fred Walshaw's family, Commonwealth War Graves Commission.