

Private Walter Joseph Hill No: 13459
Royal Welch Fusiliers, 9th Battalion
1888 – 1915

Walter Joseph Hill was born in 1888 the youngest of 6 children. His family were farmers and lived in West Garforth, near Leeds. His grandparents Andrew and Martha Hill moved to Grange in 1899 living at Woodlands, Fernleigh Road. In 1901, the census shows him as staying in Fernleigh Road, Grange at the home of his grandparents with his father William. This would explain why he is commemorated on Grange's war memorial.

Walter enlisted into the Royal Welch Fusiliers in Wrexham. His first entry into a theatre of war was 19 July 1915 and he was sent to France. His war service was extremely short as he was killed two months later on 25 September 1915. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery near Lens in France. (Panel 5) He is also commemorated on the Birmingham Roll of Honour 1914-18. He was awarded the Victory, British and 15 Star medals

He left a wife, Sarah Jane Hill, of 10 Longton Grove Road, Weston-Super-Mare.



Loos Memorial

Author: Margaret Robinson

Private John William Terry No:70897
Machine Gun Core (Infantry) 42st Battalion
1884 - 1918

John William Nelson Terry was born in Nelson, Lancashire, in 1884 the eldest of five children having three brothers and one sister. His parents were David and Amelia Louise Terry. He worked in the cotton industry as a weaver and married Florrie Thursby from Liverpool, also a weaver, in 1907. They had 3 children, Millicent Irene born in March 1908, Eileen Maude born in August 1909 and Hubert born in April 1912. Millicent and Eileen Maude were born in Burnley but Hubert was born in Ulverston shortly after the family moved to Woodhouse Terrace in Grange.

John William enlisted for 12 years in the Durham Light Infantry in January 1904 aged 19 years old - 3 years in the first class army colours and 9 years in the reserve. He was quite a short man measuring only 5ft 4" with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair and weighed only eight stone. He spent 18 months as an officer's servant and was promoted to sergeant. His army records report him as being a good clean soldier, sober and trustworthy but he subsequently lost his sergeant's stripes as a result of misbehaviour. When war was declared he was mobilised in Newcastle on 5th August 1914 and embarked from Southampton on 8th September 1914 so went out immediately with the British Expeditionary Force to France. His three younger brothers George, Alfred and Harry also joined the army and served overseas for the duration of the war.

On 9th August 1915 he was wounded at Etaples in France and was admitted to the 23rd general hospital. On being discharged from hospital he was transferred to the 18th Company Machine Gun Corps in December 1916. He appeared not to have particularly good health as his army records show that he was hospitalised several times – scabies and eczema being two problems mentioned.

He was killed in action on 11th April 1918 in the Ypres salient aged 35 years and is buried in the Dunhallow Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery at Ypres



Dunhallow ADS Cemetery, Ypres

After his death his wife requested that his headstone should bear the following inscription - "*Ever remembered by his sorrowing wife and children*". Florrie and the three children left Grange in October 1919 for America settling in Seattle. She received her entitlement of a war widow's pension via the British Consul in Seattle. She remarried on 22nd April 1924 to Gilbert Ecker and moved to Dover, Montana where she remained until her death in 1974 at the age of 94.

Author: Margaret Robinson