

Walter Foyle

Born in North Bradley Q3 1892

Killed in Action Belgium 9 December 1915

Walter was a Rifleman with the 8th Rifle Brigade, part of 'Kitchener's Army', made up mostly of volunteers. Walter signed up in London in May 1915, giving an address in Fulham.

Walter arrived abroad on 3rd August 1915, joining the 8th Battalion Rifle Brigade not far from Ypres on 5th August. This was shortly after the Battalion had been overrun by a German attack, part of the Actions at Hooge.

Conditions were very wet, trenches falling in and the men getting very tired and dirty on their 4-day turns in the Front Line. The Battalion War Diary for the night of the 8th December 1915 includes these comments: "The Battalion relieved the 7th KRRC in the trenches." "Shortly after relief a lot of heavy shelling. Breastwork was blown in, 6 men being killed."

It is likely that Walter was one of the 6 men killed when the breastwork (sandbags stacked in front of a trench for protection) was blown in.

He is buried in La Brique Military Cemetery No.2 and commemorated on the North Bradley memorial plaques.

Walter had directed that his medals and personal effects be sent to Miss Jane Newman, at an address in Fulham.

See Walter Foyle's Life Story at: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/2535957>

Father: Not known

Mother: Elizabeth Foyle

(later Gibbons)

Born and brought up in Yarnbrook, one of 7 children.

Married Herbert Gibbons in 1902.

Herbert died in April 1915, Elizabeth in 1929; both are buried in North Bradley.

Elizabeth was recorded as a Domestic Servant to Henry Sarr in Kensington in the 1891 Census, about 18 months before Walter's birth.

Walter was raised in his grandmother Foyle's household in The Rank, where he was at the 1901 Census. At the age of 18 in 1911 Walter was living on his own in Berwick St James, working as a Steam Roller Driver's Assistant. At the time of his attestation, Walter's occupation was recorded as 'Engine Driver', which could have been for a locomotive or stationary engine, as steam engines were used for many purposes then.

In 1911 Elizabeth, her husband and their 3 young sons, were living at The Rank with her mother. Elizabeth later moved to Church Lane.

G/father

John Foyle
b. Westbury,
Labourer in Iron
Works

G/mother

Sarah Wheeler
b. Hawkridge
Widowed in her forties,
youngest son then 5 years
old.

Foyle is a name still found in this area; Walter had 6 Foyle uncles and also 3 Gibbons half-brothers. There are sure to be some living relatives not too far away.