



## **Walter Frederick Hayler**

**Private G/18717 Queens Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 41<sup>st</sup> Division**

**Died 16<sup>th</sup> January 1917 aged 32**

Walter Frederick was born at West Grinstead in 1885/6. He was the third child of Harry and Caroline Hayler of West Grinstead and was probably known in the family as Frederick which is how he appears on the memorial in Shipley Church. In the 1901 Census he appears as Frederick W and was living at Hoes Gate, Shipley with his parents and two older siblings, Sarah, (1876) and Henry R, (1882). At this time Frederick was 16 years old and like his father and brother was working as a farm labourer. The 1911 Census shows he was a boarder at Thakeham living in the home of Frank and Priscilla Lloyd. He was employed as a carter, aged 26, single, and registered his name as Frederick. However, his service records are in the name of Walter Frederick, and it is as Walter that he signed his Army Papers. He named his brother Harry (Henry) as his next of kin, suggesting that his parents may have passed away. Harry was then living at Chapel Brook, Horsham.

Walter enlisted at Chichester on 5th June 1916 at the age of 32 years and 4 months. He gave his employment as a carter on Purveyor's Farm, Coolham and stated he was single.

Walter served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The 41<sup>st</sup> Division which he joined was the final division created for the Fifth New Army and was formed mainly of "Pals" units formed in response to Kitchener's appeal of August 1915. The 41<sup>st</sup> Division moved to France in May 1916 and took part in the Battle of Fleurs-Courcelette and Transloy Ridges during the Somme campaign in 1916. Walter would have joined the Division after the main company embarked for France and as a very new recruit, he probably received minimal training. He survived just seven months.

Walter was taking part in operations in Flanders when he was killed in action. He is buried in Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Belgium and commemorated in Shipley Church.

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

In Memory Of

Private

# **WALTER FREDERICK HAYLER**

Service Number: 18717

"C" Coy. 10th Bn., Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)  
who died on 16 January 1917 Age 31

Son of Harry and Caroline Hayler. Native of West Grinstead, Sussex.

A DEAR ONE FARAWAY YET NEAR TO THOSE HE LOVED

Remembered with Honour

**DICKEBUSCH NEW MILITARYCEMETERY**

L. 31.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH**

**WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**