

**In Memory of
Serjeant HARRY WALKER, DCM, MM and Bar
707, 4th Bn., Guards Machine Gun Regiment
Who died, age 41, on 20 October 1918
Son of Frederick and Ann Walker, of Faringdon, Berks;
Husband of Harriet Walker,
of Woolstone, Faringdon, Berks
Remembered with honour
Faringdon, Woolstone and Uffington War Memorials and
ST. VAAST COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION**



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

St. Vaast is a village approximately 13 km east of Cambrai on the D.942 towards Solesnes. The Cemetery lies within the Communal Cemetery which is on the left-hand side of the road before entering the village from Cambrai

St. Vaast Communal Cemetery Extension was made by the Guards Division in the latter half of October 1918, after the capture of the village, when they buried 31 of their officers and men in Rows A, B and C. Row D was added after the Armistice when graves were brought in from Haspres Communal Cemetery German Extension. The extension contains 45 burials and commemorations of the First World War. One of the burials is unidentified and there are special memorials to two casualties buried in the German extension at Haspres, whose graves could not be found.

1881 Census; Lived in London Street with Mother, Father, a carpenter; Frederick James, 10; Albert E, 5; Harry, 4 and Ann M, 1.

Citation: 2631 Sjt H Walker, Coldstream Guards, Machine Gun Coy. For conspicuous gallantry in action. Finding himself with one gun on an exposed flank, on his own initiative he collected men of several units and dug a trench facing the flank, and by rifle and machine gun fire throughout the night he was able to beat off a counter attack. Sjt. Walkers' DCM appeared in the London Gazette on the 14/11/1916. MM Gazetted 7/10/1918, MM Bar LG 17/6/1919.

Disembarked, France February 3rd 1915. Formerly 2631 Machine Gun Coy. 1st Coldstream Guards.

Battle of the Selle 23-10-16 to 28-10-16.

Report on Operations for this period is as follows:- Acting on 25th Brigade Operation Order No. 134 dated 22-10-16, the Battalion took up position in Larkhill Trench (3 Coys) and Spider Trench (1 Coy) at 11pm on the 22nd inst. At ZERO hour on the 23rd inst, the Bn moved up and occupied trenches vacated by the 2nd Bn Lincoln Regt, advancing in the order "C" and "B" Coys followed by "A" and "D" Coys, when the 2nd Line of the Lincoln Regt moved from Forward Assembly trenches.

During this advance, casualties were rather heavy, owing to shell fire. At 3.3pm the O.C. Bn ordered O.C. "C" Coy to reinforce the Lincolns.

At 3.7pm O.C. "B" Coy was ordered to reinforce the Lincolns. At 4.5pm O.C. "A" Coy was ordered to support the 2nd Bn The Rifle Brigade in 1st objective, and then to attack Zenith Trench from the N.W. Flank. At 4.14pm the O.C. Bn informed O.C. "B" Coy that "A" Coy was ordered to support the 2nd Bn Rifle Brigade in 1st objective and then to attack from N.W. Flank and if opportunity offered "B" Coy were to attack Zenith Trench from the front. At 4.26pm O.C. "C" Coy was ordered to attack Zenith Trench in conjunction with "B" Coy and under orders of O.C. "B" Coy and to co-operate with "A" Coy who was going to attack from the N.W.

From information received from O.C. 2nd Bn Lincolnshire Regt and O.C. "B" Coy, the O.C. Bn informed the Brigadier that the 2nd Lincoln Regt had failed to reach 1st objective, the enemy being strongly reinforced in Zenith Trench. O.C. "B" Coy deemed it impracticable to attack without further bombardment. The O.C. Bn had previously informed the O.C. 2nd Rifle Brigade that he was supporting him.

The Brigadier had ordered an attack on Zenith Trench from the N.W. Flank. O.C. Bn informed O.C. "D" Coy of his intentions and ordered O.C. "D" Coy to move up and be prepared to support "C" and "B" Coys. At 5pm information was received that bombs and ammunition was required by O.C. "B" Coy. O.C. Bn ordered O.C. "D" Coy to comply with request and ordered