

### WALTER RHODES – Private 200195, 4<sup>th</sup> Green Howards, 21<sup>st</sup> April 1917, Age 22

Walter Rhodes was born in Knaresborough to John Edward and Ellen Rhodes in 1894. By the time Walter was 7 in 1901<sup>(1)</sup>, the family was living in the small village of Bolton-by-Bowland, near Clitheroe in Lancashire. We next find him, given as aged 16, working as a farm labourer, away from his family home at Hollow (or Holly) Bank Farm, near Catterick Bridge for Mr Alfred Beaumont in the 1911 Census <sup>(2)</sup>.



Figure 1 – Locations of Hollow Bank Farm (Red) and Minto Grange (Yellow) - (c) Google Maps

Walter would have been a neighbour of John Hodgson (above) who lived at Minto Grange (the adjoining property).

Walter enlisted at Catterick was served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales, Own Yorkshire Regiment).

After the British offensive, since referred to as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Scarp had halted (15<sup>th</sup> April) the 150<sup>th</sup> Brigade took over newly won front line trenches from Wancourt Tower to the River Cojeul. The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion were in a support trench (Niger Trench) but it didn't offer much protection (it had been a German trench a week or so before and was effectively facing the wrong direction). Between 6pm and 8pm on 21<sup>st</sup> April a bombardment by German artillery using 105mm and 150mm shells took a heavy toll and the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary reports 9 fatalities, one of which was Walter <sup>(3)</sup>.

Walter is buried, rather poignantly, alongside all his comrades who fell on that day, in the [Hibers Trench Cemetery at Wancourt](#) in France (Grave B9, second from the right in this photograph).



Figure 2 - Hibers Trench Cemetery, Wancourt



Figure 3 - Walter Rhodes - Gravestone

Sources:

- (1) 1901 Census
- (2) 1911 Census (Ref: RG14PN29476 RG78PN1711 RD542 SD2 ED2 SN76)
- (3) 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary for April 1917  
<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/bandl.danby/039Bn1917.html>
- (4) Hibers Trench Cemetery  
<http://www.ww1-yorkshires.org.uk/html-files/hibers-trench-cemetery.htm>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

[http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty\\_details.aspx?casualty=307165](http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty_details.aspx?casualty=307165)