

Frederick Henry Walton.

Private, No. 33025, the 1st Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment).

Frederick Henry Walton was born in Wellesbourne on the 11th October 1897, the youngest son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Nee Parker) both of which were also born in the village. Joseph worked as a Farm Labourer and they lived initially in Cherry Orchard before moving to Church Street. The couple had five children, three of which died during infancy.

Frederick attended both the infants and junior schools before leaving on the 5th May 1911 to become a Telegraph Messengerⁱ.

The military records for Frederick no longer exist but it is certain that he did not arrive in France until 1916ⁱⁱ.

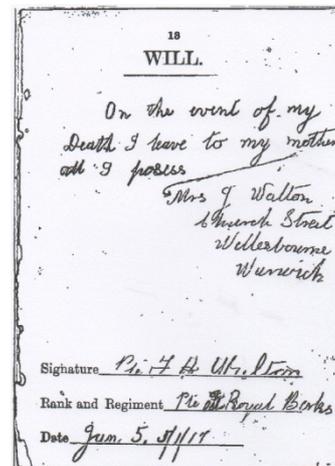
When he did receive his call up, however, he enlisted in Stratford upon Avon and initially joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Battalion unknown) with service number 18951. He was later reposted to the 1st Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment) with number 33025, part of the 2nd Brigade, 99th Division.

On the 5th January 1917 Frederick drafted his will. Whether this was made prior to him preparing to go into battle for the first time we may never know. The 1st Battalion (Royal Berkshire Regiment) after taking part in the capture of Delville Wood in late July 1916, were still located on the Somme at the time. On the 21st February 1917 however, after being hospitalised, Frederick Walton died of pneumonia.

He is buried in the Contay British Cemetery, Contay on the Somme (Grave ref. VII.F.10). He was awarded the Victory and British War medals and is commemorated on the Wellesbourne War Memorial and the Wellesbourne Roll of Honour for the Dead, St. Peter's Church, Wellesbourne.

Frederick was the fourth of Joseph and Elizabeth's children to die. In December 1922 they also lost their remaining child, Basil Stanley.

Researched by Grev Hudson (Aug2014) (grev.hudson@tinyworld.co.uk)



ⁱ Wellesbourne School Records (WRO. CR371/2, CR371/2, CR371/3 AMD CR371/4)

ⁱⁱ Men serving in a war zone prior to 1916 received a 1914/15 Star in their medal awards which Frederick Walton did not.