

We have no Service Record for Walter Houseman but we know from his Medal Card that he was in the Durham Light Infantry ( DLI ), his numbers being 6262 & 30883.

We know from the Commonwealth Graves Commission that he was a Private, his battalion, the date he died & where his memorial is.

## In France

The 1/8th bn Durham Light Infantry were part of the 151st ( Durham Light Infantry ) Brigade of the 50th ( Northumbrian ) Division.

The Northumbrian Division was a Territorial Force Division already in existence at the outbreak of the war. The Division and Brigades were not numbered until April 1915 previously just named. Arrived in France in April 1915. In June 1918 the Division was so under manned that the Brigades were reformed into Battalions and designated 149th, 150th and 151st Brigade Battalions. These Battalions formed the 50th Division Composite Brigade. The Division was reduced to Cadre in June 1918 and reconstituted in July 1918. Served in France and Flanders until the Armistice.

The following battles and engagements were undertaken by the 50th Division up to the date that we know that Walter died. He might have participated in some or all of them.

Battle of St. Julien. 24 Apr-5 May 1915.

Battle of Frezenberg. 8-13 May 1915.

Battle of Bellewaarde. 24-25 May 1915.

Battle of Flers-Courcelette. 15-22 Sep 1916, including the capture of Martinpuich.

Battle of Morval. 25-28 Sep 1916, including the capture of Combles, Lesboeuufs and Gueudecourt.

Battle of Le Transloy. 1-18 Oct 1916, including the capture of Eaucourt l'Abbaye, Le Sars and the attacks on Butte de Warlencourt.

First Battle of the Scarpe. 9-14 Apr 1917, including the capture Monchy le Preux and the Wancourt Ridge.

Second Battle of the Scarpe. 23-24 Apr 1917, including the capture of Guemappe and Gavrelle.

Second Battle of Passchendaele. 26 Oct-10 Nov 1917.

German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. 14 Mar-5 Apr 1917.

First attack on Bullecourt. 11 Apr 1917.

German attack on Lagnicourt. 15 Apr 1917.

Battle of Bullecourt. 3-17 May 1917.

Battle of St. Quentin. 21-23 Mar 1918.

Actions of the Somme crossings. 24-25 Mar 1918.

Battle of Rosieres. 26-27 Mar 1918.

Battle of Estaires. 9-11 Apr 1918, including the first defence of Givenchy.

Battle of Hazebrouck. 12-15 Apr 1918, including the defence of the Hinges Ridge and the Nieppe Forest.

Walter was killed on the 12 April 1918 so it would seem likely that this was on the first day of fighting at the Battle of Hazebrouck

According to the Durham Light Infantry Museum the 1/8th were fighting in the battle of The LYS on the date that Walter died as part of 50 Division. They were out numbered 4 to 1 by the Germans. They were in the area of Lestrem, Merville, Foret de Nieppe. By 3pm on the 12th the Division were completely shattered and were relieved in place by reinforcements. Out of a whole Division IT WAS ALMOST TOTAL ANNIHILATION of every battalion who had been fighting for four days..

He has no grave but he is remembered at the Ploegsteert Memorial Cemetery in Flanders