

## **W RICHARD THACKER**

Walter Richard Thacker was born in Partney in 1893. His father Charles was an agricultural labourer. He was baptised in St Nicholas Church on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1893. He was the son of Charles and Sarah Ann.

In 1911 Walter was living with his family in Partney. He was working as a Draper's Apprentice.

Walter served as a Corporal in the 7<sup>th</sup> Lincolnshire Regiment during the First World War. His Regimental Number was 12422. He was first sent to France on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915, landing in Boulogne. The Regiment experienced its initial period of trench familiarisation and then moved to the front lines in the southern area of the Ypres salient.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Lincolnshire Regiment became part of the 51<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 17<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division. The Division fought in many of the significant actions;

In 1916 the Division was involved in fighting at the Bluff (south east of Ypres on the Comines canal), part of a number of engagements officially known as the Actions of Spring 1916. They then took part in various phases of the Battles of the Somme.

1917 saw them engaged in the Arras Offensive and the Third Battles of Ypres and then in 1918 the Battles of the Somme and the Battles of the Hindenburg Line and then the Final Advance in Artois.

Walter's brothers Charles and George also served during the First World War.

Walter was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1915 Star. He was also awarded the Silver War Badge. The badge was awarded to all of those military personnel who had served at home or overseas during the war, and who had been discharged from the army under King's Regulations. Expiry of a normal term of engagement did not count and the most commonly seen KR is 392(xvi), meaning the soldier had been released on account of being permanently physically unfit.