

DICK WILLERTON

Dick Willerton was born in Spilby in 1893. His father Richard was working as a shepherd.

In 1901 the family were living in Ashby-by-Partney. By the 1911 Census, Dick, registered more formally as Richard, is living in Croft Marsh, Wainfleet. He was working as a waggoner on the Kemp family farm.

The waggoner was often a heroic figure on the farm with the best horses, the best harness, and skills the others did not possess. Filled corn sacks, for instance, weighed sixteen to nineteen stones and had to be carried in and out of the granary with no mechanical assistance. The waggoner was the only man who could be asked to undertake this job, which gave him a chance to display his strength for all to see. It took skill and hard work to become a waggoner, but it was something anyone could aim at.

Dick served as a Private in the 2/5 Lincolnshire Regiment and the Labour Corps during the First World War. His Regimental Numbers were 3392 and 440799.

He was first posted to France on 17th August 1915.

The 1918 Electoral Register for Partney shows Dick as living near the Post Office. Matilda Willerton is also registered there.

He was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1915 Star.