


Pte. Walter James Clarke

Name	Walter James Clarke
Birth Place	Bugbrooke
Occupation 1911	Soldier
Date of Birth	1890
Date Enlisted	Before 1911.

Bugbrooke's first casualty of the First World War



ONE OF H.M. BODYGUARD.



Lance-Corpl. W. J. Clarke, of the 1st Northants, who is seen in the accompanying picture reading the "Independent," which is a great favourite with soldiers serving abroad, is reported killed in action. Lance-Corpl. Clarke, whose parents live at Bugbrooke, was until the outbreak of war assistant schoolmaster at the Northampton Barracks. He was also a skilful musician, was a bandsman of his regiment, and served four years in India and one at Aden. During the King's visit to Althorp in September, 1913, Lance-Corpl. Clarke had the honour of serving as one of his Majesty's bodyguards. He was one of three brothers at the front, was 24 years of age, and had served nine years in the Army. In a letter to his fiancée an officer of the regiment wrote a sympathetic message, in which he stated that Clarke fell at Ypres, and was buried in the woods S.E. of Wooze.

CLARKE, W. J., Private, 1st Northants. Regiment.

Mobilised from the Reserve when war was declared, he proceeded to France in August 1914, and fought in the Retreat from Mons, and the Battles of the Marne, the Aisne and La Bassée. He gave his life for the freedom of England at Ypres on October 29th, 1914, and was entitled to the Mons Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.

"Whilst we remember, the sacrifice is not in vain."
Bugbrooke, Northants. Z3272 /C.

No 7831 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment.

The youngest child of 7, Walter lived with his parents in Big Lane (Great Lane). His father was a shepherd in 1891, and both parents together with all children were born in Bugbrooke. Both Walter and his older brother were soldiers in 1911, and clearly joined up at the same time as the closeness of their service numbers testify. They served together in the 1st Battalion of the Northants Regiment, and both were killed.