

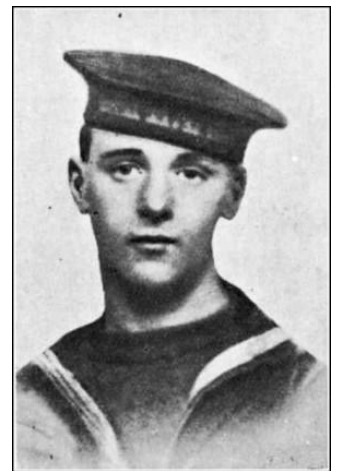
Walter Dawson (1892 – 1917)

Walter Dawson was born in Farnhill, attended Kildwick School and was in the choir of St Andrew’s church.

A keen and talented footballer he worked as a wool and weaving overlooker at Woodrow’s Mill in Junction.

Enlisting in 1915 he joined the Royal Naval Division and died, of wounds received in the Somme offensive, in February 1917.

Walter’s grave is in a cemetery near the town of Albert in Northern France and his name is recorded on the Kildwick War Memorial and was also included on the Kildwick School memorial.



Photograph by kind permission of www.cpgw.org

Pre-war life

Walter Dawson was born, in Farnhill, on 29th June 1892, and was baptised a little over two months later in St. Andrew’s Church, Kildwick.

He was the second child, and eldest son, of Sam Beck Dawson, born in Shipley in 1870, and Frances (nee Watson), born in Steeton in 1868. They were married, in Kildwick, on 5th April 1890.

The 1901 census, by which time there were three children, recorded the family living at 7 Newby Road, Farnhill; Sam was listed as a stonemason and the eight year-old Walter was attending Kildwick School. He was also a member of Kildwick Church choir.

By the time of the 1911 census, Walter was recorded as working as an overlooker of wool and worsted weaving. Subsequent newspaper reports suggest that this was in the Standard Shed at Woodrow’s Mill, Junction.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.									
<i>Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.</i>									
<i>The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions than the preparation of Statistical Tables.</i>									
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday) and Sex.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.			PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	
1 Sam Beck Dawson	Head	41	Married	5	5	Stonemason	733	Worke	Yorkshire Shipley
2 Frances Dawson	Wife	43	Married	20				Worke	Yorkshire Steeton
3 Hilda Dawson	Daughter	20	Single			Silk Winder	854	Worke	Yorkshire Farnhill
4 Walter Dawson	Son	19	Single			Wool & Worsted Weaving	945	Worke	Yorkshire Farnhill
5 Archie B. A. Dawson	Son	17				School	1000	Worke	Yorkshire Farnhill
6 William Dawson	Son	9							Yorkshire Farnhill
7 Harry Dawson	Son	6							Yorkshire Farnhill

Extract from the 1911 census return for 7 Newby Road, Farnhill
Used under licence from the National Archive

Note: The “Particulars of Marriage” section records that Sam Beck and Frances had been married for 20 years, and had had five children – all five still living.



Woodrow's Mill. Photograph taken c.1962.
By kind permission of Keighley and District Digital Archive

Walter was a good amateur footballer and played for Kildwick Old Boys Football Club and, later, Sutton United.

WW1 service

Walter Dawson enlisted on 25th November 1915 and joined the Royal Naval Division. This was an infantry unit set up by the Navy at the start of WW1 from navy and marine reservists and volunteers who were not needed for service at sea.

ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

HANDYMEN TO FIGHT ON LAND & SEA

1ST BRIGADE

BATTALIONS:
"BENBOW"
"COLLINGWOOD"
"HAWKE"
"DRAKE"

RECRUITS WANTED



2ND BRIGADE

BATTALIONS:
"HOWE"
"HOOD"
"ANSON"
"NELSON"

RECRUITS WANTED

VACANCIES FOR RECRUITS BETWEEN THE AGES OF **18** AND **38**
 CHEST MEASUREMENT, **34** HEIGHT, **5 FT. 3 ½ IN.**
 PAYMENT from 1/3 per day. · **FAMILY ALLOWANCES**
 Besides serving in the above Battalions and for the Transport and Engineer Sections attached.

MEN WANTED

who are suitable for Training as Wireless Operators. Signalmen and other Service with the Fleet.

Photograph from [Wikimedia Commons](#) (public domain)

Whilst home on leave, on 5th July 1916, Walter married Lena Fortune of Silsden in Silsden Primitive Methodist Chapel. The marriage was witnessed by his younger brother, Archie; and Walter gave his occupation as "Seaman, Royal Naval Division".

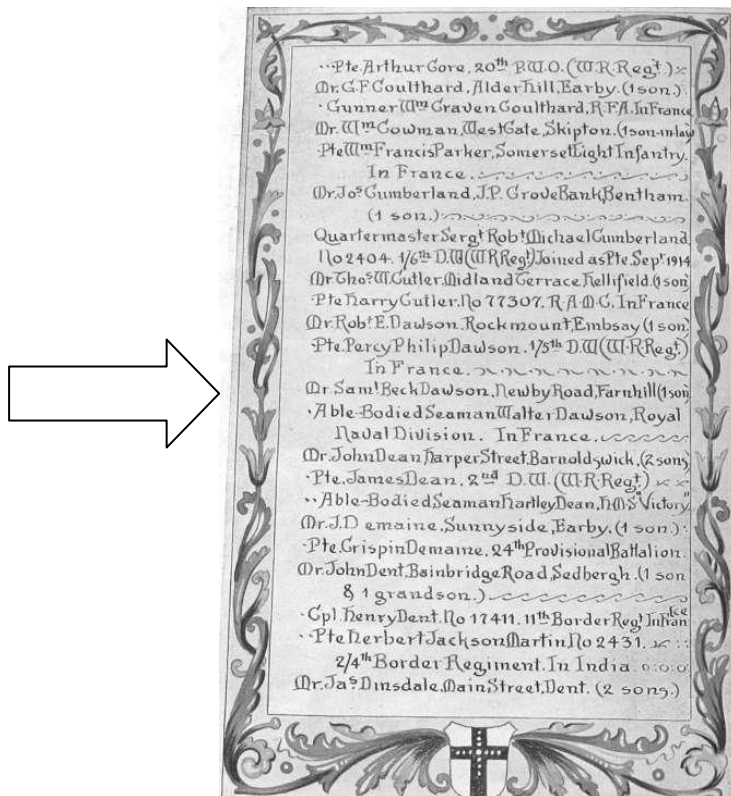
1916. Marriage solemnized at <i>Primitive Methodist Chapel Kirkgate Silsden</i> in the District of <i>Skipton</i> in the County of <i>York. W. R.</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
15	<i>July 7th 1916</i>	<i>Walter Dawson</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Seaman Royal Naval Division</i>	<i>4 Newby Road, Farnhill</i>	<i>Sam Beck Dawson</i>	<i>Stone-mason</i>
		<i>Lena Fortune</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Cotton Weaver</i>	<i>13 Hawthorn Street Silsden</i>	<i>John Fortune</i>	<i>Milk-man</i>
Married in the <i>Primitive Methodist Chapel</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Primitive Methodist</i> by <i>Licence</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <i>Walter Dawson</i> <i>Lena Fortune</i> }			in the Presence of us, { <i>Archie Dawson</i> <i>Mary Annie Wade</i> }		And in the Presence of { <i>William Dickinson</i> } Authorized Person for the said Chapel			

Dawson – Teal marriage certificate
(c) Crown Copyright

Just five days later, on 10th July 1916 – with the Somme Offensive underway – he embarked for France, where he was assigned to Hawke battalion. It is likely that Lena continued to live with her parents, in Hawthorn Street, Silsden.

In August 1916, Walter Dawson's name was included on a Roll of Honour created at the suggestion of the Skipton MP, William Clough, by the Skipton Division Liberal and Conservative Associations (Sam Beck Dawson was a member and Walter himself was a member of Kildwick Conservative Club.) The purpose of this was to provide a:

Roll Call of the Delegates & Subscribers of the Skipton Division Liberal & Conservative Associations, and of their sons, sons-in-law, and grandsons who have served in His Majesty's Forces between the Fourth of August 1914 and the Fourth of August 1916.

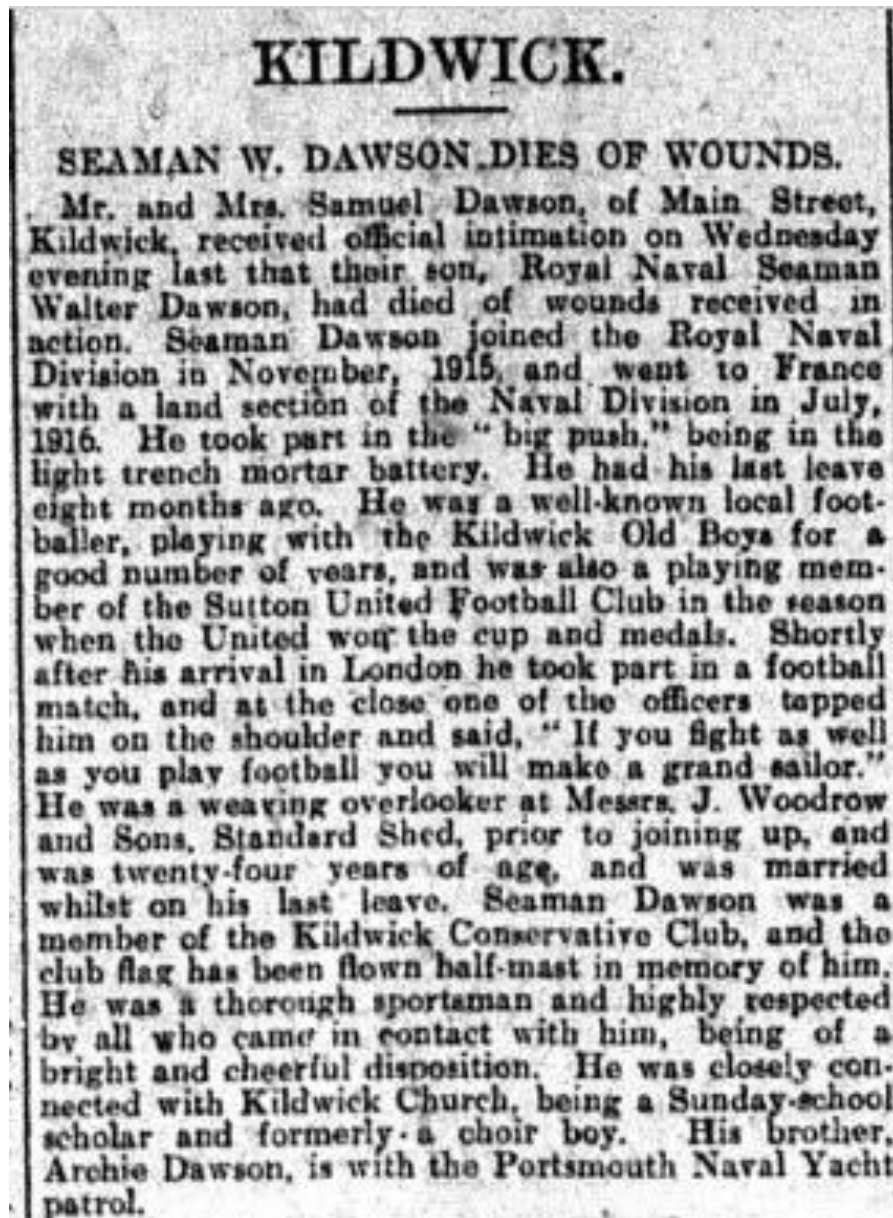


Photograph by kind permission of www.cpgw.org

Circumstances of death

Walter Dawson was wounded in action, in France, on 3rd February 1917, and died in a field ambulance two days later. He was aged 24.

There is very little information available on the circumstances of Walter Dawson's death. A news report printed in the Keighley News, on 17th February 1917, gave the details.



News of Walter Dawson's death
By kind permission of Keighley News

On 18th February 1917, a service in memory of Walter Dawson was held in Kildwick Church. At the close, the 'Last Post' was played on the cornet by Richard Inskip of Kildwick Brass Band (father of one of the Farnhill Volunteers), and the Dead March from Handel's oratorio 'Saul' was played by George Spencer, the organist (father of Leo Smith, another of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers).

Walter Dawson was buried in Aveluy Wood Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, near the town of Albert in Northern France.



Photograph by kind permission of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



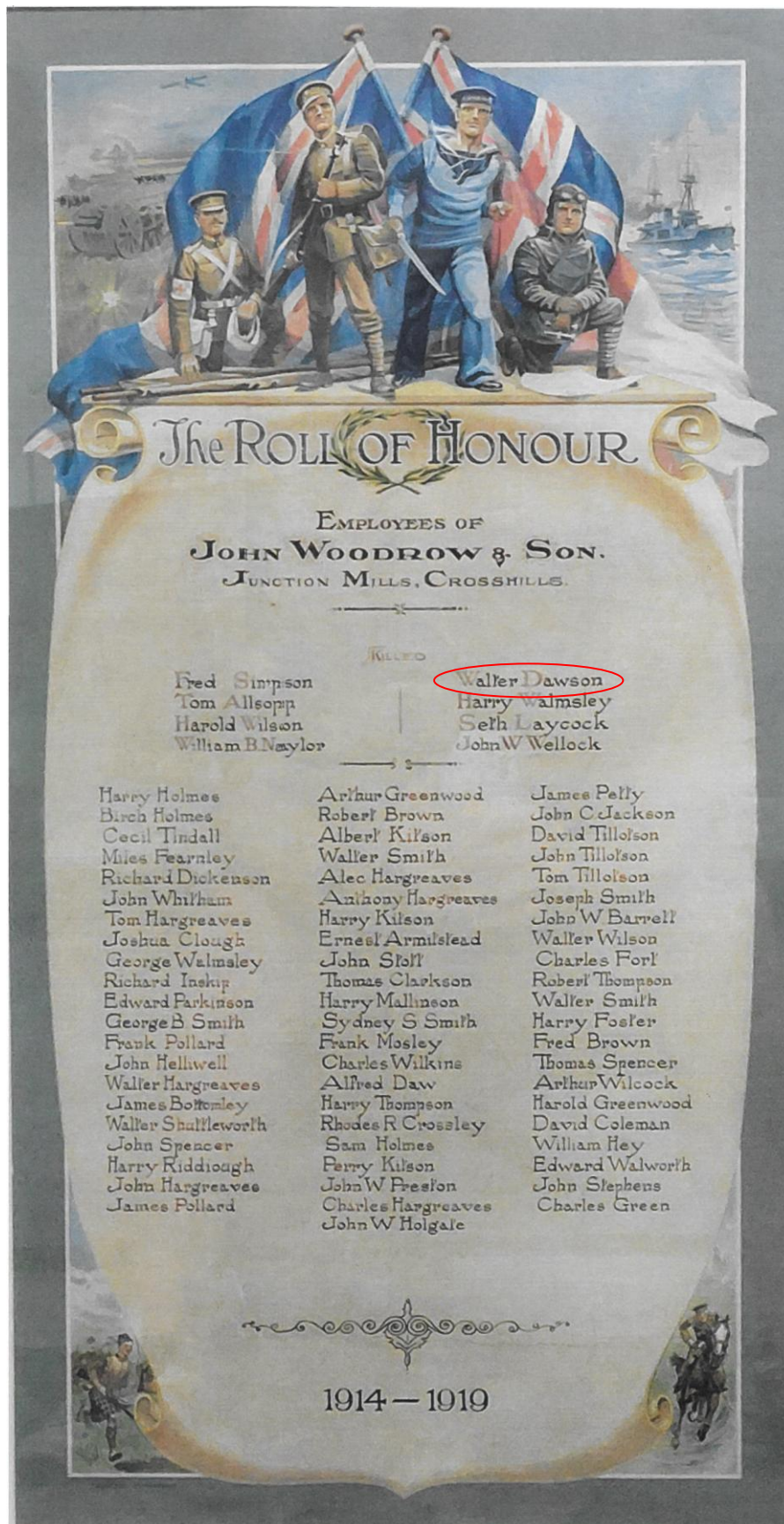
Photograph by kind permission of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

He is commemorated on Kildwick war memorial, unveiled in 1921.



Photographs provided by Keighley and District Digital Archive

Also on the Roll of Honour of men employed by Woodrow's Mill at Junction.



With thanks to BurberryGroup, PLC

Postscript

In February 1920, the following news report appeared throughout the local press:

A beautiful memorial, provided by former scholars of Kildwick National School to commemorate the sacrifices of old scholars in the great war was unveiled in Kildwick National School on Sunday afternoon. The schoolroom was quite filled with old scholars, relatives and friends, the company including Mr. James Bairstow (Springfield), and Mr. W.A. and Mr. J.J. Brigg (Kildwick Hall). The service was in charge of the vicar of Kildwick (the Rev. C.E.V. Hodge), who said they were met to dedicate the tablet to the memory of the sons of that school who had fallen in the war.

The unveiling ceremony was fittingly performed by Mr. Thomas Appleby, who had been in charge of the National School as headmaster during the school days of most of those who had fallen. ...

The memorial is of carved oak with brass panels on which are engraven the names of the fifteen old scholars who have fallen. The centre picture is of St. George kneeling, and is a replica, in colour, of the glass panel by Mr. G.W.P. Hutchinson, exhibited at the Royal Academy. ...

*The names inscribed on the memorial are: Tom Allsopp, Willie Barker, A.L. Backhouse, Fred Carlton, **Walter Dawson**, Fred Dixon, Joseph Green, William Mosley, Fred Scarfe, Joseph Smith, J. Allan Smith, Archie Sugden, T.H. Stephens, Frank Thompson, and H. Walmsley.*



The only known photograph of the Kildwick School WW1 memorial, courtesy of Anne Hweitt.
The memorial itself remains missing, presumed destroyed.

The 1921 census records Lena Dawson living in Silsden, with her parents and a younger brother.

Both of Walter's parents died in 1925.

On 21st August 1926 Lena Dawson married for a second time, to Jonathan Teal, in the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Silsden. They had a daughter, born in 1936.

1926 .. Marriage solemnized at <i>Primitive Methodist Chapel, Kirkgate, Silsden.</i> in the District of <i>Skipton</i> in the County of <i>Yorkshire.</i>								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Columns No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
148	August Twenty- first 1926	Jonathan Teal.	30 years	Bachelor	Wetite Engineer.	Jemcliffe Cottage, Litham Wood, Keighley.	James Teal (Deceased)	Wool-Sorter.
		Lena Dawson.	32 years	Widow.	Silk Weaver	13, Hawthorn Street Silsden	John Fortune	Retired Wool-Dresser.
Married in the <i>Primitive Methodist Chapel, Silsden</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Primitive Methodists</i> by <i>certificate</i> .								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Jonathan Teal</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Lena Dawson</div>		in the Presence of us,	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">John Fortune</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Lena Teal</div>		And in the Presence of } Authorized Person for the said Chapel.	Joseph W. Patterson

Teal – Dawson marriage certificate

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Lena Teal died in Keighley, on 24th January 1966; aged 72. Jonathan Teal died in St. Ives, Cornwall, on 4th November 1981; aged 86.

A number of Walter Dawson's siblings married and had children. It is likely that members of these families are still living in the area.

Walter Dawson – a life in summary

Born: 29/6/1892, Farnhill
Baptised: 4/9/1892, Kildwick
Died: 5/2/1917; Somme, France **Aged:** 24

Parents

Father: Sam Beck; b. 1869, Wrose Hill; d. 4/12/1925, Crosshills
Mother: Frances (Fanny) (nee Watson); b. 5/11/1867, Steeton;
bapt. 26/4/1868, Kildwick; d. November 1925; buried 11/9/1925, Kildwick
Married: 5/4/1890, Kildwick

Siblings

Hilda; b. 8/8/1890, Farnhill; d. April 1916, Farnhill
Eva; b. 5/2/1895, Farnhill; d. October 1895 (buried Kildwick)
Archie Douglas Alan; b. 4/4/1898, Farnhill; m. Hilda Riddiough, 1920, Skipton (Registration district);
d. 6/1/1958, Crosshills
William; b. 27/8/1901, Farnhill; m. Eva Pearce, 16/4/1927, Steeton;
d. 1957, Staincliffe (Registration district)
Harry; b. 9/1/1905, Farnhill; m. Elizabeth Smith, 20/4/1935, Eastwood;
d. 1968, Worth Valley (Registration district)

Relationship to other volunteers

John William Dawson – Walter was his nephew
Harry Walmsley – paternal cousin

Marriage

Wife: Lena (nee Fortune); b. 1893, Skipton (Registration district);
d. 24/1/1966, Keighley (as Lena Teal)
Date: 5/7/1916, Silsden Methodist Chapel – witnessed by Archie Dawson

WW1 service

Attested: 25/11/1915
Service period: 10/7/1916 to 5/2/1917 (died of wounds received 3/2/1917)
Unit: Navy, Hawke Bn. Royal Naval Division (unit no. Tyneside Z/8773)
Home address: 7 Newby Road, Farnhill

