

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



WALTER HYDE

KING'S LIVERPOOL REGIMENT

KILLED IN ACTION 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1918

BORN IN 1889 AT SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN, THE SON OF  
JAMES AND MARGARET HYDE (NEE EARNSHAW) AND  
HUSBAND OF ANNIE HYDE

# Hyde Family History

- 1891 census shows Margaret Hyde (nee Earnshaw) widowed, living with her parents, 2 sisters and her son Walter at North Street, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

| Name                             | Age | Work                        | Birth place      | Birth year  |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| William Earnshaw (Head)          | 63  | Worsted spinning overlooker | Oxenhope         | 1828        |
| Margaret Earnshaw (wife)         | 56  |                             | Trawden, Lancs   | 1835        |
| Margaret Hyde (daughter & widow) | 24  | Worsted weaver              | Bradford         | 1867        |
| Walter Hyde (grandson)           | 2   |                             | Sutton-in-Craven | 1889 - 1918 |
| Grace Earnshaw (daughter)        | 19  | Worsted weaver              | Sutton-in-Craven | 1872        |
| Emily Earnshaw (daughter)        | 15  | Worsted spinner             | Sutton-in-Craven | 1876        |
| Richard Mason (visitor)          | 32  | Joiner                      | Skipton          | 1859        |

## NOTES:

Walter Hyde’s mother Margaret Hyde (nee Earnshaw) married James William Hyde in the July/Aug/Sept quarter of 1888 in the Keighley district.

Walter’s father James William Hyde born 1869 died aged 21 yrs in the Jan/Feb/March quarter of 1890 in the Keighley district. Cause of death unknown.

In the Apr/May/June quarter of 1891, Walter Hyde’s mother Margaret Hyde married her second husband Richard Mason (see above)

- **1901 census** shows Walter Hyde still living with his grandparents at 14, North Street, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

| Name  | Age | Work                       | Birth place      | Birth year  |
|---|-----|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| William Earnshaw (Head)                         | 73  | Worsted weaving overlooker | Oxenhope         | 1828        |
| Margaret Earnshaw (wife)                        | 66  |                            | Trawden, Lancs   | 1835        |
| Walter Hyde (grandson)                          | 12  | Worsted spinning doffer    | Sutton-in-Craven | 1889 - 1918 |
| Emily Parkinson nee Earnshaw (married daughter) | 25  |                            | Sutton-in-Craven | 1876        |
| James Owen Parkinson (son-in-law)               | 27  | Fruit merchants assistant  | Crosshills       | 1874        |



North St, Sutton-in-Craven  
(source: photo provided by David Smith)

- **1901 census** also shows Walter Hyde’s mother Margaret & her second husband Richard Mason living at Eastby near Embsay together with their three children aged 8, 6 and 4 yrs.

- **1911 census** shows Walter now married to Annie. They had been married for one year and had a one month old daughter called Edith. Their address is shown as 10, Overburn Rd, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

| Name                  | Age     | Work   | Birth place      | Birth year  |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|------------------|-------------|
| Walter Hyde (Head)    | 22      | Weaver | Sutton-in-Craven | 1889 - 1918 |
| Annie Hyde (wife)     | 23      |        | Ripon            | 1888        |
| Edith Hyde (daughter) | 1 month |        | Sutton-in-Craven | 1911        |



Bay Horse overlooking Overburn Rd, Sutton-in-Craven  
(source: *Sutton-in-Craven, the old community* 1973 Edited by Alec Wood)

- **1911 census** also shows Walter Hyde's mother Margaret & her second husband Richard Mason living at 6, Stanley St, Morecambe together with their five children aged 18, 16, 14, 8 and 7 yrs.

# World War 1



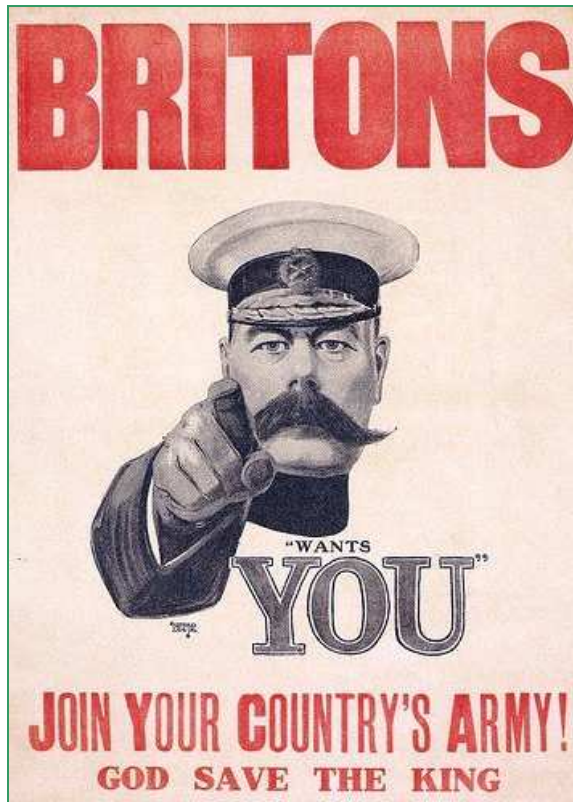
It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

## **August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914** **Britain declares war on Germany**

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as **'Kitchener's Volunteers'**

## **The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"**





Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914



Parliamentary Recruiting Committee  
London, 1915



British volunteers physical training, Manningham Park, 1914 (Kitchener's new army)  
(source: *The Bradford Pals* Ralph N. Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, 1993)

Prior to enlistment, Walter Hyde was employed at William Smith & Co joinery works at Crosshills.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Walter Hyde responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the armed services, however he was initially rejected. He did however succeed in joining the forces in May 1917 when he enlisted into the 1/6th (Rifle) battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment. His regimental number was 49737 and his rank was Private.

The King's Liverpool Regiment fielded 49 battalions during WW1 and lost 13,795 officers and other ranks during the course of the war.



WW1 King's Liverpool Regiment collar badges

|                                |              |          |          |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Name.                          |              | Corps.   | Rank.    | Regtl. No. |
| HYDE                           |              | Lhool R. | 1st      | 49737      |
| Walter                         |              |          |          |            |
| Metal.                         | Roll.        | Page.    | Remarks. |            |
| VICTORY                        | H/2/1020/18. | 2084     |          |            |
| BRITISH                        |              |          |          |            |
| STAR                           |              |          |          |            |
| Theatre of War first served in |              |          |          |            |
| Date of entry therein          |              |          |          |            |

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Walter Hyde (source: *The National Archives*)



# The Western Front 1918

The Western Front was marked by a system of trenches and fortifications separated by an area known as No Man's land. These fortifications stretched 475 miles and precipitated a style of fighting known as trench warfare.



Gas training in the trenches  
(source: [www.gwpda.org/photos](http://www.gwpda.org/photos))

However, it was the Russian Revolution in 1917 that finally changed the nature of the deadlock and war of attrition in the west. Once the fighting had halted in the east, it allowed the Germans to transfer many Divisions to the Western Front. They knew that time was running out, for the United States of America had entered the war on the Allied side and it was only a matter of time before vast untapped reserves of manpower swung the balance in the favour of the Allies.

On the 11th November 1917, the German High Command decided to make a decisive attack in the west in the following spring. Their target was the



British Army. They believed that the British were exhausted by the four major efforts in 1917 (Arras, Messines, Passchendaele and Cambrai).

By mid-February 1918, the Germans had moved many Divisions from the now collapsed eastern front to the west in preparation for the major spring offensive

By the spring of 1918, the Allies knew that there would be a major German attack; they just did not know when it would come. The British reinforced their positions near the coast while the French strengthened their positions to the south of the British.



German infantry waiting to attack  
(source: [www.gwpda.org/photos](http://www.gwpda.org/photos))

On March 24th 1918, the Germans launched the massive offensive. In just five hours, the Germans fired one million artillery shells at the British lines, over 3000 shells fired every minute. The artillery bombardment was followed by an attack by elite storm troopers. These soldiers travelled lightly and were skilled in fast, hard-hitting attacks before moving on to their next target. The German storm troopers carried little except weaponry, such as flame throwers that could cause much panic, as proved to be the case in this attack.



Dead British bodies after battle

This was the first of a number of large-scale, last-ditch German offences throughout the spring and summer months of 1918, until the manpower advantage enjoyed by Germany would be gone as the American forces slowly built up to strength. By November 1918, their exhausted efforts forced the Germans to call for an Armistice.

Pte Walter Hyde was **Killed in Action** on the 17th October 1918, less than 4 weeks before the Armistice ended WW1. He was killed instantly by an artillery shell whilst sleeping by the roadside.

**He was 29 years of age**



**Article Date: 01 November 1918**

### **Rifleman Walter Hyde Killed**

Mrs. Hyde, of Sutton, has received an intimation that her husband, Rifleman Walter Hyde, of the King's Liverpool Regiment, has been



killed in action in France. Captain Brownel, in a letter to the widow, says:- It is with the very greatest regret that I have to tell you that your husband was killed on the 17th October. It will be a hard blow for you to bear, but I know how the feelings of pride that he has given his life for his country and people will help you. He did not suffer, but was killed outright. He was a very good soldier, and will be missed by all who came in contact with him. Please accept my sincere sympathy."

Rifleman Hyde's Platoon Sergeant has also sent a letter of sympathy in which he says:- "Your husband was killed instantly by a shell whilst asleep by the roadside about 7-45 p.m. on the night of the 16th instant. He was always of a quiet disposition, though cheery under all circumstances, and I wish to convey to you the sympathy of all."

Rifleman Hyde, who joined up over two years ago, was gassed last year, and was sent to the War Hospital at Edmonton. He went out again in January of this year. He was 29 years of age, and prior to enlistment was employed at Messrs. Smith's Joinery Works, Crosshills. Much sympathy is felt for the widow in her sad loss. We will give a photograph next week.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))

**CROSS HILLS AND DISTRICT.**  
Rifleman Walter Hyde, King's Liverpool Regiment, of Sutton, was killed in action on October 17, after over two years' service with the forces. In a letter to his widow, Captain W. E. Brownell says: "It is with the very greatest regret that I have to tell you that your husband was killed on October 17. It will be a hard blow for you to bear, but I know how the feeling of pride that he has given his life for his country and people will help you. You may rest assured that he did not suffer, but was killed outright. He was a very good soldier, and will be missed by all who came in contact with him." Sergeant T. Lovgreen, in a letter of condolence, states that Rifleman Hyde was killed instantly by a shell whilst asleep by the roadside about 7.45 p.m. on the night of October 16. Rifleman Hyde joined up in May, 1915, and was gassed last year, being sent to the War Hospital at Edmonton. He went out again in January. Prior to enlistment he was employed by William Smith & Co., Limited, Cross Hills, and he was 29 years of age. He was very well known and highly respected.

Keighley News extract (source: photocopied by Josie Walsh)





Article Date: 01 November 1918

### Sutton Soldier's Death

Mrs. Walter Hyde of Sutton, has received information that her husband, Pte. Walter Hyde, of the Liverpool Rifles, has made the supreme sacrifice. Deceased, who was in his 30th year, leaves a widow and three little children. He offered himself early in the war, but was rejected. He, however, succeeded in joining the forces in May, 1917. He has been gassed on two occasions. He returned to France in February last. Deceased was employed at Smith's joinery works. He was of a very quiet disposition. His platoon sergeant, Thomas Lovegreen, has sent the following letter to deceased's wife:- "Dear Mrs. Hyde, - Your husband was probably killed instantaneously by a shell. He was lying asleep on the roadside about 7.44 p.m. on the night of the 16th (Wednesday). He was always of a quiet disposition, thorough and cheerful under all circumstances. In the absence of his platoon officer, and on behalf of his chums, I offer our deepest sympathy."

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))



## Casualty Details

**Name:** HYDE  
**Initials:** W  
**Nationality:** United Kingdom  
**Rank:** Rifleman  
**Regiment/Service:** The King's (Liverpool Regiment)  
**Unit Text:** 6th Bn.  
**Date of Death:** 17/10/1918  
**Service No:** 49737  
**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead  
**Grave/Memorial Reference:** I. E. 66.  
**Cemetery:** RUE-PETILLON MILITARY CEMETERY,  
FLEURBAIX  
(*source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/)*)

## RUE-PETILLON MILITARY CEMETERY, FLEURBAIX

There are just over 1,500 Great War casualties commemorated at the Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix in France of which nearly half are unidentified.

The number of identified casualties commemorated totals 885 including the burial of Pte Walter Hyde.

Pte Walter Hyde is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial.



RUE-PETILLON MILITARY CEMETERY, FLEURBAIX  
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))



RUE-PETILLON MILITARY CEMETERY, FLEURBAIX



WAR MEMORIAL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARK



(source: *South Craven, the official guide*, 1950)



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)



Pte Walter Hyde was posthumously awarded the  
British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original pair of WW1 medals (source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)  
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



## Lest we Forget

### CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



RIFLEMAN WALTER HYDE, King's Liverpool  
Regt., of Sutton, killed in action 17th October,  
1918. Aged 29 years.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

(original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

# FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE  
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS  
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE  
MORNING*

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

**LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943**



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)