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| **Name** | **EDWARD CARR** |
| **Birth** | 1897 East Rainton Durham |
| **Enlistment/Occupation** | Enlisted Hexham, Northumberland/Gardener |
| **Death, date, location** | 14/02/1916  Killed in action  Ypres  France & Flanders  Entered France 20/04/1915 (Medal Rolls) |
| **Age** | 19 |
| **Unit, rank,service no:** | 2524  Private  Northumberland Fusiliers  1st/4th Bn.(Territorials) |
| **Family acknowledgement CWGC** | Son of Robert Carr of Horsley Village, Wylam, Northumberland. CWGC |
| **Family** | Edward Carr was born in 1897 in East Rainton, Durham. He was the youngest son of Robert Carr of Herrington Co. Durham and his wife Annie (nee McGuire) born at Bywell, therefore local to Wylam. At the 1901 census Robert was a cattleman on a farm in Horsley and the family lived in a cottage close to the Manse in the village. In addition to Edward aged 4, the other boys were George 18, Thomas W. 14, Robert 10, and the girls Mary Jane 19, and Margaret 7. Given the nature of the father’s work on farms the family moved frequently, but settled in Horsley around 1900. By 1911 just three children were still living at home George 26, a labourer, Margaret 17, and Edward 14 a gardener. Father Robert was then a cart man.  We do not have a date of enlistment for Edward. However, the Medal Rolls show that he entered France 20/04/1915 and he was killed in action at Ypres in the following February 1916. This seems to indicate that Edward was either already a member of the local 4th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers or amongst the earliest volunteers to join once war had been declared in August 1914  The War Diary records that the battalion was mobilised on 4th August 1914 and on the 5th August all the officers and 657 other ranks reported for duty. Training is recorded as taking place during August in N. Shields, Earsdon, Heaton and Gosforth Park. November records show the battalion billeted in Newcastle before being moved off to Blyth on 16th November 1914.  The War Diary omits any further records until April 1915. On 18th/20th April the Battalion was transported to Folkstone and then onto Boulogne, France. On 21st April trains took the battalion to Cassel where they were billeted on farms near the station. On 22nd April the battalion marched to billets in Oudezeele orders were received to leave at 3.00pm the next day. Heavy firing was heard.  It would seem very likely that Edward was part of this early mobilisation of the Battalion and entered France with the Battalion in April 1915. |
| **Battalion War Diary**  **4th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers** | The War Diaries usually mention the numbers of casualties for the specific period of the report. They are less likely to mention specific named casualties. The names of officers do get mentioned, but the larger number of casualties amongst the ‘Other Ranks’ must have made it impossible for the officer acting as diarist to truly know and record them all individually. Edward Carr is not specifically mentioned as a casualty, but the War Diary does describe the situation and circumstances of the Battalion over the relevant period and the day on which Edward was killed 14th February 1916 during the 2nd Battle of Ypres. The diary describes the period as follows:-  ***Scottish Lines***  ***6th February*** *We were relieved by the 4th Yorks and marched back to Scottish Lines for 6 days rest, which is going to be very acceptable.*  ***7th-12th February*** *On the whole quite a good rest; the batt: had to carry out a programme of work laid down by the brigade. The weather was very cold. On the night of the 12th we went up and relieved 9th D.L.I. in trenches in* ***SANCTUARY******WOOD****. Relief quite quiet.*  ***13th February*** *A very active day. At 8.00am and lasting the whole day the enemy shelled the* ***HOOGE RIDGE*** *just on our left. The* ***SANCTUARY WOOD*** *came in for a bit of shelling and we had a few men wounded. The enemy it is estimated put over 6000 shells during the day. The night passed off fairly quietly.*  ***14th February*** *During the morning there was only little activity. In the afternoon the enemy again shelled* ***HOOGE RIDGE*** *and attacked late in the afternoon, opposite the Rifle Brigade and were beaten back. A good amount of stuff was thrown* *over our trenches and* ***we had four men killed and about thirteen or fourteen wounded. (See burial book).*** *Also on the right of this division opposite 17th Division the enemy in the afternoon bombarded very heavily and attacked taking a few of our trenches. Our batt: transport, when returning through* ***KRUISSTRAAT,*** *were shelled and one corporal killed and two men wounded. The night was disturbed and at 4.30am on* ***15th February*** *a counter attack was made on the lost trenches but failed. The whole of the day was rather disturbed; the enemy shelled* ***HOOGE RIDGE*** *and round about, but nothing further happened. During the attack on our left on the* ***14th Feb,*** *some of the enemy’s bombers came out opposite our trenches, but were spotted and dispersed. During the night two rifles, two grenades and the belongings of one of them who was shot were safely brought into our trenches. The information gained turned out to be of great value to G.H.Q. At 8.00pm another counter-attack was made on the lost trenches and succeeded only partially.*  ***16th February*** *The whole day was quiet on both sides. In the evening the Batt: was relieved from front line trenches by 6th N.F. and went into close support redoubts, H.Q. went to* ***MAPLE COPSE****. Capt. J.R. Robb and 2nd Lt. Scaife returned from leave and no officers being due, all leave went to the men.* |
| **Battalion** | **The 1/4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers**, a territorial battalion was based in Hexham and recruited extensively in the Tynedale area, when war broke out in August 1914 after training they proceeded to France in April 1915, to join the 149th Brigade, 50th (Northumbrian) Division. They took part in the Second Battles of Ypres in 1915 and the Battle of the Somme in 1916, the Arras Offensive where they captured Wancourt Ridge and The Second Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. In 1918 they again saw action on The Somme and Battles of the Lys and Hindenburg Line. |
| **Memorials** | Panel 8 and 12.  YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL  Also commemorated on:-  War memorial Plaque St.Oswin’s church, Wylam  War Memorial cross, Horsley village |
| **Comments** | Edward’s elder sister Mary Jane had married a neighbour James Pearson Blythe in 1904 and James was killed in action in 1917 just a year after Edward his younger brother in law. **(see under James Pearson Blythe)** |
| **Sources** | Soldiers died in Great War 1914-1919  Commonwealth War Graves Commission  1901 & 1911 Census  Medal Rolls  www The Long Long Trail  War Diaries 4th battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, Fusiliers Museum of Northumberland, Alnwick. |
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