

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



Parents	William and Roseanne
Married	

Information from National Roll of the Great War

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.

Additional Information

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

L.-Corpl. W. J. Clarke, 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 Woze.

Walter James Clarke, known as James, was born and brought up in Bugbrooke, one of seven children born to William and Roseanne, his father was a coachman/servant, and late in life a gardener.

Both James and his brother Mark, joined the Northamptonshire Regiment of the army well before the war. They were both registered as soldiers in the 1911 census, and immediately the war started formed part of the British Expeditionary Force, sent to Belgium. James was registered as Private 7831, his brother Mark as 7888. Clearly they joined up at virtually the same time.

James was the first soldier from Bugbrooke killed in the Great War, dying in Flanders at the battle of Ypres on the 24th October 1914. His brother Mark was killed later in 1916.

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