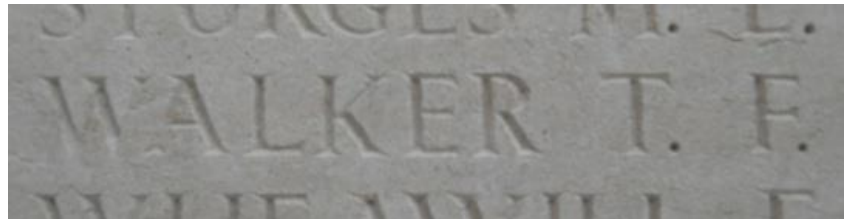


## THOMAS FOSKETT WALKER (1900-03)

<b>Date of Birth</b>	10 July 1887 at Hoxne, Suffolk.
<b>School Information</b>	None. The 1901 census listed 13 year-old Thomas boarding at widow Kate Austin's house in Station Road, Framlingham. Meanwhile his parents and siblings were living at Brundish, Suffolk where his father was a farmer. His father <b>Thomas James Walker (1869-74)</b> also attended the College.
<b>Career Information</b>	In 1911 the census he is listed as a pupil working for Herbert Harvey on Rowhedge Farm in Long Melford, Suffolk.
<b>Date Of Death</b>	29 October 1917
<b>Cause of Death</b>	Killed in action
<b>Location</b>	Ypres, Belgium
<b>Cemetery</b>	Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium Panel 153
<b>Rank</b>	Private
<b>Branch of Service</b>	761888, 1st/28 <sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (Artists' Rifles)



The following information is based on research carried by Evelyn Empson.

In 1891 he was living at Home Farm, Hoxne with his parents Thomas James Walker and Annie Garrard and his sister Ruth. His younger sister Marjorie was born later that year. In 1901 he was at the College and in 1911 he was working and living on Rowhedge Farm, Long Melford, Suffolk with Herbert and Anna Harvey. Later he lived at Bawdsey and in 1915 he enlists at Alderton, Suffolk, as 7648 Private, in the Artists' Rifles O.T.C. Hare Hall Camp, Romford, Essex.

The Short Service WW1 record has survived on line, although very badly damaged by fire and water. There were originally 28 pages, but very few are decipherable. His mother at that time was given as next of kin (Annie Walker, of 19 Fairfield Road, Chelmsford). He was described as being 5'7" tall and a Farm Steward.

His enteric inoculation was given 4 March 1916, a second 16 March 1916 with the vaccination given 6 March 1916. He may have been in the 25th Battalion at that time, since he was transferred to the 28th "in the field".

During the training, he had leave to appear as a witness to his sister Ruth's wedding to a watchmaker, Frank Edward Wiseman at All Saints Church, in Springfield.

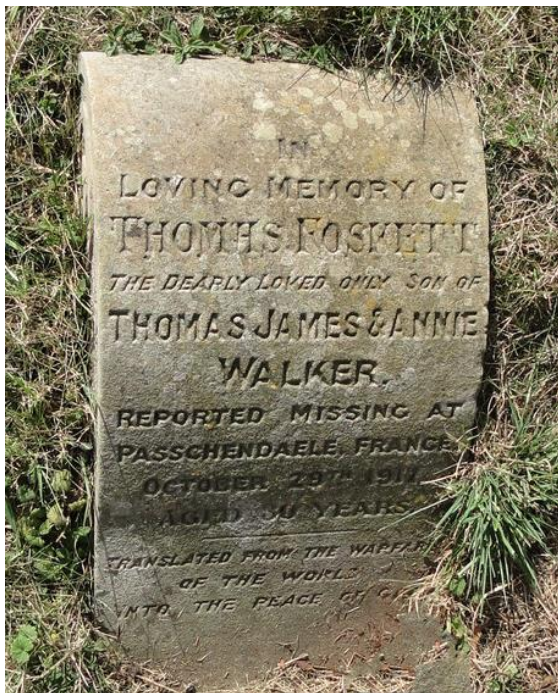
Thomas embarked at Southampton on 14 May 1917 and arrives in Le Havre on 15 May 1917. He joined his Unit in the field on 19 May 1917.

It is not known when he was given the number 761888, 28th Battalion, but only five months later at Passchendaele he was reported "missing", in the Ypres area between 29th/30th October 1917, when he would have been thirty years old.

This number was used in all subsequent correspondence between No.7 Infantry Section, G.H.Q., 3rd Echelon, B.E.F.

On 6th May 1918, his mother writes requesting information about her son. The letter was marked "Deceased".

The record for Soldiers' Effects putting Private Thomas Foskett Walker as 761888, 1/28th Battalion London Regiment (after the usual request for family details) records his sister as Executrix and legatee and "Mo" presumably his Mother. The War Gratuity awarded was £12.11.6. to Ruth M. Wiseman and "Mo" (residuary legatees), sent 13 November 1919. It records Thomas died on or since 30.10.1917.



Since his body was not recovered, he is REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR on the TYNE COT MEMORIAL Panel 153. As well as the Chapel memorial he is also commemorated on the Chelmsford War Memorial and on his parents' headstone at Hacheston Church (pictured).

In the personal effects, he had left a diary for which a receipt was requested. His mother would subsequently have received the plaque and scroll. Later the British War and Victory medals were sent to her.

Probate granted for his estate was given on 24th June 1919 to Ruth Mary Wiseman (wife of Frank Edward Wiseman) £248.13.2.

Out of interest, the 28th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Artists' Rifles) had its origins in the 20th Middlesex (Artists) Volunteer Rifle Corps. Its headquarters was at 17 Dukes Road, Euston (now the home of the Contemporary Ballet Trust). The following information was taken from Wikipedia:

*"The Artists Rifles (the apostrophe on Artists' was officially dropped in 1937) was a popular unit for volunteers. It had been increased to twelve companies in 1900 and was formed into three sub-battalions in 1914, and recruitment was eventually restricted by recommendation from existing members of the*

*battalion. It particularly attracted recruits from public schools and universities. On this basis, following the outbreak of the First World War, a number of enlisted members of the Artists' Rifles were selected to be officers in other units. This exercise was so successful that, early in 1915, selected Artists' officers and NCO's were transferred to run a separate Officers Training Corps. the remainder being retained as a fighting unit. Over fifteen thousand men passed through the battalion during the war more than ten thousand of them becoming officers. The battalion eventually saw battle in France in 1917 and 1918, and suffered higher casualties than those of any other battalion. Members of the Regiment won eight Victoria Crosses, fifty-six Distinguished Service Orders, and over a thousand other awards for gallantry. "*