

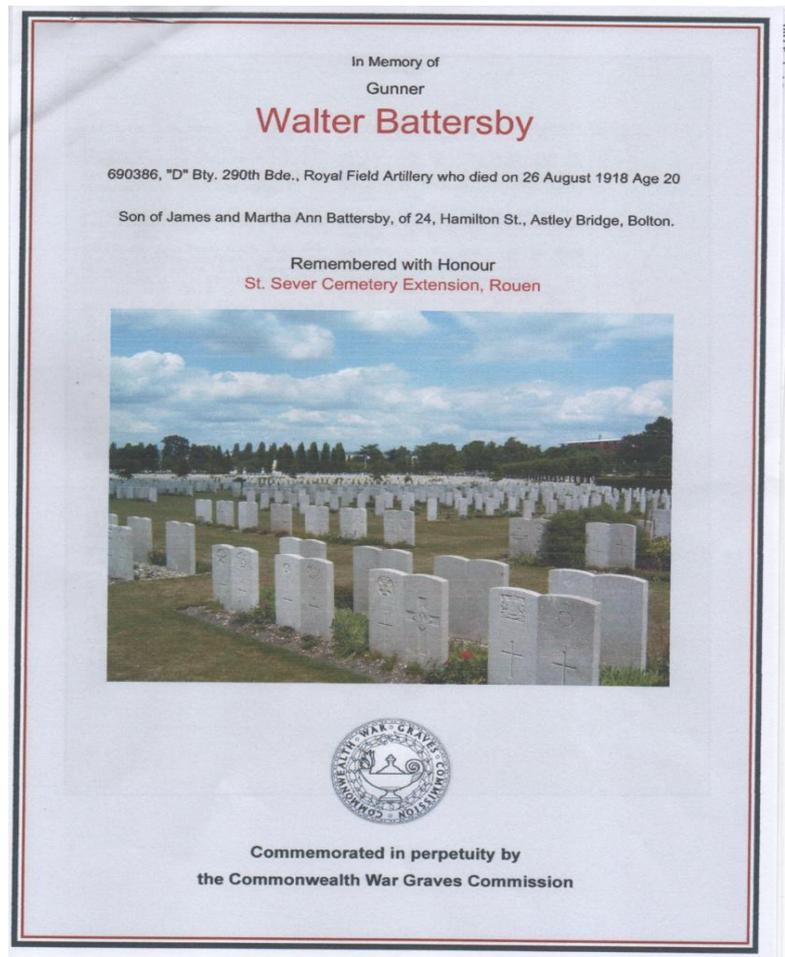
Walter BATTERSBY

c. 1898 – 26 August 1918

In 1901, at the age of three, Walter was living with his parents James (aged 41) and Martha Ann Battersby (aged 39) at 38 McDonna Street off Adrian Road, close to Halliwell Road, Bolton. He had three sisters Ethel, aged 12, Florence aged 9 and Mabel aged 7.

Walter's father James was employed as a "greyman" in a bleachworks. Greycloth was the term for raw unfinished material in the cotton industry at the start and finishing process for the cloth. Like tanning the work was dirty and dangerous, and with no health and safety to consider exposure to the bleaching agents and fumes could easily have been detrimental to health.

By 1911 the family were living at 33 Thurstane



Street, Halliwell, just down the road from McDonna Street, and also off Adrian Road. James continues to work as a Greyman in a bleachworks. Ethel is a weaver; Florence is a stitcher at a bleachworks and Mabel a "Tierup at Edges Blue works" Walter is at school. By 1918 they were living at 24 Hamilton Street, Astley Bridge, Bolton.

Walter enlisted as a Gunner in Bolton in the "D" Battery, 290th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, and saw action in France & Flanders. The 'Field' artillery had light guns drawn by horses. He could have been in the Battle of Amiens which opened on 8th August 1918. The Allies lost 6,500 men killed, wounded or missing but took 17,000 prisoners. The Battle of Albert (just north east of Amiens) opened on 21st August 1918.

He died of his wounds on 26 August 1918 aged 20 and is buried at St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, in France. Rouen is about 35 miles south west of Amiens His name is on the Bolton Artillery War Memorial in Nelson Square, Bolton



Gunner in RFA 14-18



Gunners in action 14-18

He was awarded the Victory and British medals.