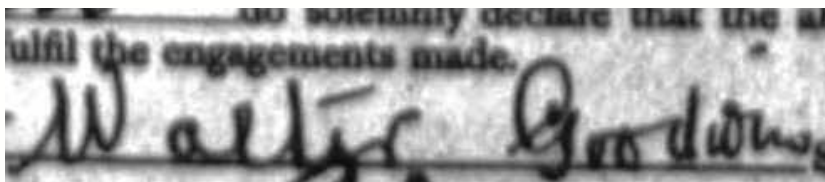




Walter Goodwin

80 Kedleston Road

When war broke out in August 1914 Walter was working as a Grocer in Derby, but he volunteered for military service on 27 August. At that date he was approaching his 29th birthday although on his attestation form his age is recorded as a year younger.



Walter's signature on his attestation papers in August 1914 © The National Archives

Passed as fit for active duty he was posted with the 15th Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery, which served with the 15th (Scottish) Division formed in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Second New Army. The early days were chaotic, as there were very few trained officers and NCOs to command the volunteers and no organised billets or equipment. At the first inspection of the new division by George V on 26 September 1914 most men wore civilian clothes.

While training Walter was declared unfit for active duty as he had varicose veins and demobilised on 3 December 1914. We can be fairly sure he did serve in some capacity later in the war as he was listed as absent on Military Service in the 1918 Electoral Register, but no military records have been traced. He may have been called up after conscription was introduced in 1916 to a

services or logistics section of the armed forces based in the United Kingdom.

Walter was one of four children and his father, George, taught at Hulland School, near Ashbourne, where the family lived in the school house. In about 1909 Walter's mother Alice, now widowed, moved to 44 Statham Street, living there with her youngest daughter Florence and two lodgers. In the 1911 census Walter was living at 34 John Street with grocer Albert Wall and family - possibly where he worked as a Grocer's Assistant.

By 1914 Alice had moved to 80 Kedleston Road and Walter returned here when he was demobilised in mid 1919. Walter never married, continuing to live here with his mother and two sisters Fanny and Florence. The family purchased the house in 1925.

In the 1939 register taken on 29 September Walter was listed as "Grocer's Assistant, Wholesale". Alice, Fanny and Florence are listed at an address in Ashbourne. They may have just been visiting as Electoral Rolls suggest the three women continued to live at 80 Kedleston Road. Alice died aged 94 in 1951, shortly after her oldest daughter Fanny. Walter died two years later on 27 October 1953 aged 68 years, leaving Florence, the youngest sister, living alone in the house until her death in 1970.