

## **Sapper William Richard Walkem (1895-1917)**



A doctor's son and a promising young mechanic he was only 21 when he died in the Great War.

Born in Vancouver on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1895 he was the son of Doctor W.W. Walkem and planned to go to university for engineering after the war. Before enlisting he had spent three years in the boy scouts and had just started work at the Vancouver Engineering Works as a mechanic. When the war started in 1914 he was one of the first to volunteer and one of the youngest at only 19.

He went overseas with the first contingent in 1914 as the bugler for 1<sup>st</sup> Field Company Canadian Engineers and served with distinction as a dispatch rider with Major J.P. Fell.

In early 1917 he spent 4 months in hospital and when released joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Company which was going back into action. He died of wounds on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1917 following the assault on Vimy Ridge and is buried in the Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension in France