

# Dinton

## Men Who Served & Survived



*Lest we Forget*

### World War I



3231 PRIVATE

**WALTER GEORGE STACEY**

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

## Walter George STACEY

Walter George Stacey was born in January, 1895 at Dinton, Wiltshire to parents George & Elizabeth Annie Stacey (nee Mullins). Walter's parents had married in 1887 at St. Mary's Church, Dinton, Wiltshire & their marriage had been registered in the September quarter, 1887. Walter's birth was registered in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire in the March quarter of 1895.

The 1901 Census recorded Walter Stacey as a 6 year old, living with his family at Upper Hindon Road, Dinton, Wiltshire in a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were recorded as George Stacey (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 39, born Fovant) & Annie Stacey (aged 38, born Teffont Magna). 3 children were listed on this Census, all born at Dinton – Ethel (aged 12), then Walter & Arthur (aged 6 months).

The 1911 Census recorded Walter Stacey as a 16 year old Farm Labourer living with his family in a 3 roomed dwelling at Hindon Road, Dinton. His parents were listed as George Stacey (Labourer on a Farm, aged 48) & Annie Stacey (aged 48). George & Annie had been married for 23 years & had 3 children – all still living. There were 3 children listed in the household in this Census – Ethel Stacey (General Servant – Domestic, aged 22), then Walter & Arthur Stacey (Attending School, aged 10).

Walter George Stacey enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1914. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 3231. Walter Stacey's records show that he was attached to 2/4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

### **2/4th Battalion**

Was formed at Trowbridge in October 1914 as a second line unit. It became part of 2/South Western (135th) Brigade in 2/Wessex Division. On 12<sup>th</sup> December 1914 they moved to India, landing in Bombay in January, 1915. The Division was broken up on arrival in India, where the Battalion remained throughout the war. The 2/4th Battalion was attached on arrival to Poona Brigade in 6th (Poona) Divisional Area. In March, 1917 they moved to Allahabad Brigade in 8th (Lucknow) Division.

Private Walter George Stacey served in India with the Wiltshire Regiment. The 1st/4th Battalion and 2nd/4th Battalion of Wiltshire Regiment spent 1915 in India on Garrison duties. A number of men were supplied as reinforcements to front line battalions in other theatres of operations.

Private Walter George Stacey's records show that he was entitled to the Silver War Badge (No. 86695) & was attached to 2/4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment at the time he was discharged – 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. Pte Walter George Stacey was discharged due to Sickness – Para 392 (xvi) K.R. (xvi – No longer physically fit for service). He had served overseas. In September 1916, King George V authorized the Silver War Badge (SWB) to honour all military personnel who had served at home or overseas since 4 August 1914 and who had been discharged because of wounds or illness. The SWB was a small, circular badge made of sterling silver, bearing the king's initials, a crown, and the inscriptions 'For King and Empire' and 'Services Rendered'.



**Silver War Badge**

Pte Walter G. Stacey was entitled to the British War Medal as recorded on his Medal Index Card.



Showing both side of British War Medal.

Walter George Stacey married Marion Dawkins at Barford St. Martin Church in 1937. Their marriage was registered in the June quarter of 1937.

Newspaper Article:

*At St. Martin's Church on Saturday Mr Walter George Stacey, eldest son of Mr George Stacey and the late Mrs A. E. Stacey, of Dinton, was married to Miss Marion Dawkins, only daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Dawkins of Shaftesbury-road, Barford St. Martin. The service was conducted by the Rev. D. H. Blyth.*

*The bridegroom has been a prominent member of the Dinton Cricket Club since its inception.*

*The bride, given away by her father, wore a dress of flowered georgette, with a brown coattee, and hat to tone trimmed with flowers. Her bouquet was composed of pink carnations. Miss Edith Stacey (cousin), who was bridesmaid, was dressed in pink marocain, with a black picture hat relieved in pink. She carried a bouquet of pink and mauve sweet peas. Mr A. Stacey (brother of the bridegroom) was "best man."*

*After a gathering at the bride's home, the newly-married pair left for the honeymoon at Southampton.*

*Among the wedding gifts was a set of carvers from the Dinton Cricket Club. (Western Gazette – 2 July, 1937)*

Walter George Stacey married Gertrude R. C. Bennett at Salisbury Register Office in 1950. Their marriage was registered in the March quarter of 1950

Walter George Stacey died on 31st December, 1955, aged 60 at The Infirmary, Salisbury. His death was registered in the March quarter, 1956 in the registration district of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Administration was granted for Walter George Stacey of Parkside Cottages, Dinton on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1956 to Gertrude Rachel Callow Stacey, widow. Effects £491 19s. 10d.



**Parkside Cottages** *(Photo by Andrew Stacey 2011)*



**Walter George Stacey**

*(Photo taken late 1930's – courtesy Andrew Stacey –nephew)*