

15/12170 Lance Corporal Charles Hubert Walker DCM, MM

(Charles) Hubert Walker was born on 10 June 1896 at Garvagh in County Londonderry, where his father John, from County Roscommon, was serving as a constable in the Royal Irish Constabulary. His mother Edith was from Belfast—she had married his father when he was serving in Londonderry and she was a teacher in Bushmills. Hubert was the eldest of four sons. By 1911 the family had moved to Belfast, where John Walker served as a police sergeant at Leopold Street barracks.

Hubert Walker enlisted on 5 September 1914 into the North Belfast Battalion being raised for service with the Ulster Division. He trained with the Battalion—soon renamed 15th (Service) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rifles (North Belfast)—at Ballykinlar in County Down and at Seaford in Sussex before landing in France with 107th Brigade, 36th (Ulster) Division in October 1915. Little else is known of his service other than he was awarded the Military medal in March 1918 for bravery during the Battalion's attack during the Battle of Cambrai on 23 November 1917.¹

On the first day of the German offensive on 21 March 1918 he fought alongside Second Lieutenant Edmund De Wind at *Racecourse Redoubt*—for his gallantry De Wind was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. Read about that action [here](#). In the course of the action Lance Corporal Walker was wounded in the side and back and after being captured he was held at Limburg PW camp. He was repatriated in late 1918 and transferred to the Class Z Reserve on 18 March 1919. Lance Corporal Walker was mentioned in despatches² and for his gallantry at *Racecourse Redoubt* on 21 March 1918 he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.³ In addition, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20 and Victory Medal.

After the war he served briefly with the Royal Irish Constabulary before becoming a civil servant, initially with the Land Registry of Northern Ireland. On 10 September 1930 he married his cousin, (Rachel) Kathleen Walker, at St. Bartholomew's Church in Stranmillis; the couple had no children. Hubert Walker DCM, MM died of stomach cancer on 5 June 1943, aged 46; he was buried in Knockbreda Cemetery.

¹ London Gazette 13 March 1918. 30573, 3247.

² London Gazette 9 July 1919. 31442, p 8709.

³ London Gazette 30 January 1920. 31759, p 1220