**Walter Robert Ashforth**

Walter Robert Ashforth was born near Sheffield in 1878. His father, James Ashforth, was a silver manufacturer’s clerk. He was a widower and brought up his three children with help from a housekeeper. By 1891, Walter, aged 12, had left school and was working as an errand boy. In 1898, he married Mary Sylvester, who was 30 and they lived in Brightside Bierlow, near Sheffield, where Walter was a hairdresser. Mary died and Walter moved south. By 1911 he was living on his own at 6, Roberts Road, Watford and was working as a gentlemen’s hairdresser in the town. He enlisted at Camden Town and served as Sergeant 2901 in the London Regiment. 19th Battalion. He was killed in action on 28 June 1916 and was buried at Tranchee De Mecknes Cemetery, Aix-Nouette in France. He is commemorated on the St Matthew’s Memorial, Oxhey.

