Private Harry SLEAFORD
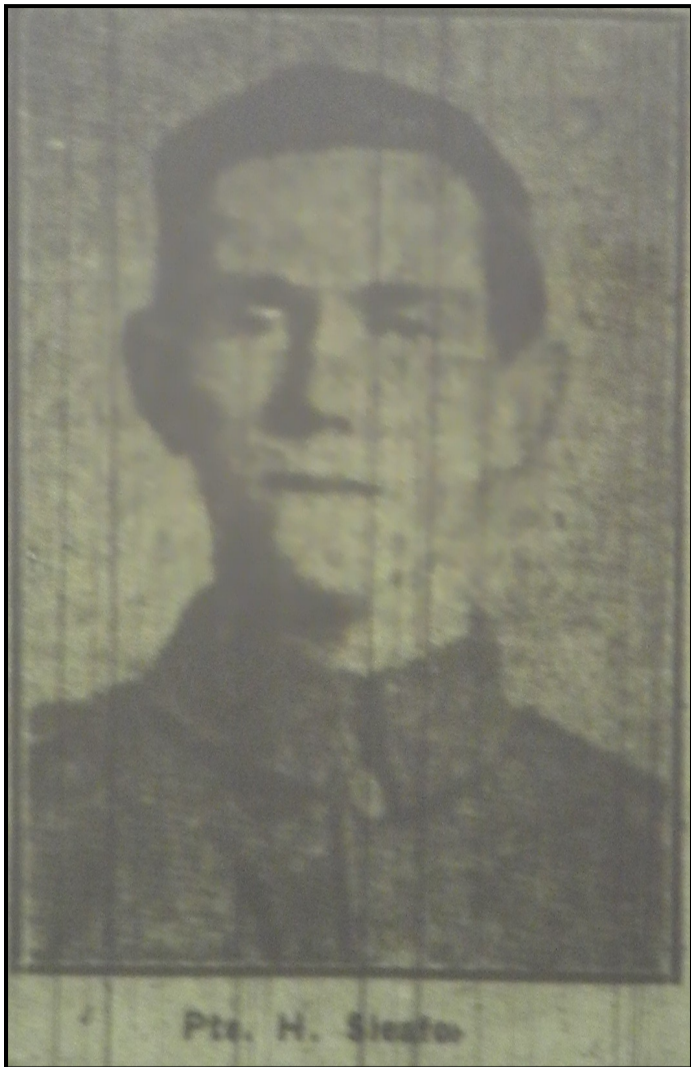

Pte. H. Sleaford

Henry, known as Harry, was the son of Charles and Sarah Sleaford of Timberland, and was born at Walcott in 1895. After leaving the village school in c1908 he became an apprentice to Mr George Elkington, wheelwright of Walcott and Timberland. Early in the Great War he volunteered into the 6th (Service) Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment at Lincoln and after training went out to Gallipoli and was killed in an attack on Scimitar Hill (Hill 70), Yilghin Burnu on 9 August 1915. From his Battalion, 12 officers and 391 other ranks were killed, wounded and missing in this action.

Harry was only 20 years old when he died, but sadly he has no known grave and his name was listed on the Helles Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. A memorial service was held in St Andrew's church on Sunday 4 June 1916 where the Revd William Cole Ambrose of Billinghay spoke of Harry's excellent character whose conduct as a youth at home and in the army was all that could have been desired. During the service a Union flag was held by Private Thomas Sleaford, a distant relative from Walcott who was home from France on short leave.