

## No.16 Walter Hayes

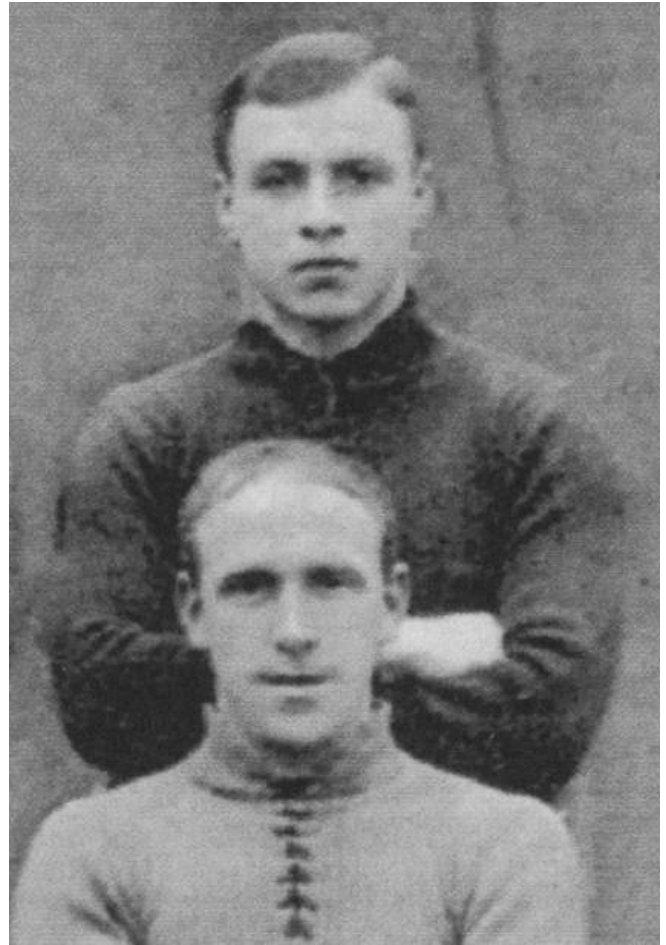
I cannot find any trace of Walter Hayes replacing regular goalkeeper Charlie Madeley and playing first-team football for Hednesford Town prior to his transfer to Wolves.

Walter was born in Oldbury, 12 April 1894, moving from Hednesford Town to Wolves in 1911 to make his debut for them on 28 February 1914 in a 2-1 away win at Glossop.

Future Hednesford goalkeeper, Teddy Peers, was keeping Walter out of the first-team and it was two months later, 18 April, before he would get another chance. The game was away at Barnsley and a disappointing 2-1 defeat was the result. The only good news was that former Hednesford centre forward, Tosh Griffiths, was Wolves' marksman on the day.

Early in the 1914-15 season Walter was transferred to Preston North End, but he was unable to break into their first-team before the outbreak of WWI virtually put an end to his Football League career.

When football picked up again, in 1919, he joined Cradley Heath and later helped Lye Town. Walter died in 1954.



Walter Hayes (top) with future Hednesford Town goalkeeper Teddy Peers (below) in Wolves' 1913-14 team.

