



Norman Howgate

1884 – 1917

Norman was born in Crackenedge, Dewsbury on 9th June 1884 and baptised at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road on 21st July 1884. His father was Harry Howgate, a Cloth Presser born in Dewsbury in 1861 and died in 1926. His mother was Elizabeth Ellen (nee Talbot) born in York in 1862 and died in 1924. They were married in Dewsbury in 1884.

Norman was their only child.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Tentercroft Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 8, Upper Bank Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at Marsden Cottage, 11, Old Bank Road, Earlsheaton.

Norman was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and attended Trinity Congregational Church and Sunday school. He was a member of Eastborough Working men's Club and worked as a wool scourer in 1901, a sub postman in 1911 and by 1914 was employed in the milling department of Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Calder Mills, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

He attested on 9th February 1915 serving as Private 8484 in the 6th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers. After training at Portland and Edinburgh he was posted to the Dardanelles Campaign (Gallipoli) and in November 1915 he returned home suffering from jaundice and dysentery, spending five months convalescence in Ireland. He was sent to the Western Front and was killed in action on 9th April 1917, the first day of the Battle of Arras. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Norman was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The primary objective on the first day of the offensive was the Observation Ridge north of the Cambrai-Arras road; secondary objectives were the village of Feuchy plus the German second and third trench lines. South of the road, a trench known as the Monchyriegel was the main objective but Devil's Wood, Tilley-les-Mofflaines and the Bois-de-Boeufs had to be taken first. The Monchyriegel ran between Wancourt and Feuchy and was an important supply route and key element of the German trench system in the area. It was during this assault that Norman was killed.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Norman is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park, the St. Philip's Church War Memorial now relocated to Dewsbury Minster and on the War Memorial in Eastborough School to former pupils.

In Memory of

Private

Norman Howgate

8484, 6th Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 09 April 1917 Age 33

Son of Harry and Elizabeth Helen Howgate, of Marsden Cottage, II, Old Bank, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

