



## **Newman Wilkinson**

### **1879 - 1916**

Newman was born in Earlsheaton on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1879. His father was John Wilkinson, a coal miner born in Thornhill in 1849 and died in 1909. His mother was Rachel (née Taylor) born in Gawthorpe in 1852 and died in 1901.

Their other children were; Herwin, born in 1874, Lewis, born in 1881 and served in World War 1, Percy, born in 1884 and died in 1886 and Edgar, born in 1885 and died in 1886.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Wakefield Road, Earlsheaton, in 1891 at Board School Street, Earlsheaton and in 1901 at Station Road, Earlsheaton.

Newman was a single man who was educated at Earlsheaton Day School and from 1892 to 1897 at Wheelwright Grammar School, where in his final two years he captained the football team. Upon leaving school he was articled in the Batley surveyor's office, qualifying as a civil engineer. In 1904 he went to Singapore to work in the Public Works Department, reaching the position of assistant superintendent of works.

Newman was an extensive traveller and fluent in several languages. When war broke out he was appointed Chief Transport Officer in Singapore, controlling all military and civilian transport. It was a challenging time, as it coincided with the disturbances in Singapore following the mutiny of the Indian Army's 5<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade in early 1915. Newman's role also included the deportation of 300 German prisoners to New Zealand via Australia. After the quashing of the disturbances, Newman took his one year annual leave entitlement. After a brief time in Australia, he returned to England around Christmas-time 1915. He remained there until the early Spring of 1916, by which time he obtained permission from the Colonial Office to enlist.

He attested on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1916 joining the Motor Transport Department of the Army Service Corps in Greenwich, London and after a month's training on Salisbury Plain, he went to India serving as a Private M2/167646 in the 692<sup>nd</sup> Company of the Army Service Corps. He died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1916 at Sukkur from heat apoplexy. He was buried the same day at Sukkur Cemetery (now in modern-day Pakistan). He was one of seven servicemen based there to die of heat stroke that day. It was less than eight weeks since his enlistment. His grave was later classed as unmaintainable and so he is commemorated on the Delhi Memorial (India Gate). Newman was awarded the Victory Medal.

Newman 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 Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos behind the Altar at St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Memorial Plaque at Wheelwright Grammar School to former pupils and on the Straits Settlements War Memorial, Singapore.

In Memory of

Private

**Newman Wilkinson**

M2/167646, 692nd Coy., Army Service Corps who died on 06 June 1916

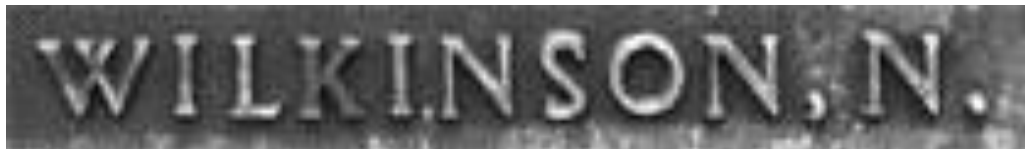
(Buried Sukkur Cem.).

Remembered with Honour

**Delhi Memorial (India Gate)**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Photograph of the name of Newman Wilkinson on the Straits Settlements War Memorial, Singapore. By courtesy of the Imperial War Museum.