



## **Norman Scholefield**

### **1895-1918**

Norman was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was William Scholefield, a Woollen Manufacturer's Clerk born in Dewsbury in 1862 and died in 1929. His mother was Annie Elizabeth (nee Dyson) born in Leeds in 1867 and died in 1933. They were married in Dewsbury in 1889.

They had one more son; Arthur Leslie, born in 1902 and died in 1902.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 7, Barber Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 4, Moorlands Terrace, Dewsbury and later at 145, Craigie Dene, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury.

Norman was a single man who attended Heckmondwike Grammar School and from early childhood was associated with Springfield Congregational Sunday School and Church, being a member of the choir and also an organist. He worked as a Woollen Manufacturer's Clerk for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Dewsbury, the same occupation and employer as his father. He was an excellent swimmer, winning competitions as a member of Dewsbury Swimming Club.

In May 1915 he joined the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, training at Bulford Camp, Salisbury Plain with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Cyclist Corps. He embarked to France on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1915 Serving as Private PS/6942 with 23<sup>rd</sup> (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (1<sup>st</sup> Sportsman's). He was a regular contributor to the Dewsbury Reporter newspaper with several of his letters being published. An article on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1917 reads: "*After being in France for 21 months, Pte Scholefield was home on leave for 10 days. He had been 'over the top' several times, struck in the ankle by shrapnel, served on every sector in France and had comrades killed on either side of him, while he has assisted in the taking of thousands of German prisoners*". He was killed in action in France on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). 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 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury and on the Dewsbury Central Liberal Club Plaque and on the Heckmondwike Grammar School Memorial Plaque dedicated "To the fallen old Scholars of this School"

In Memory of

Private

## Norman Scholefield

PS/6942, 23rd Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 25 March 1918 Age 24

Son of William and Annie Elizabeth Scholefield, of 145, Craigie Dene, Wakefield Rd., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

SCHOLEFIELD N.