



Norman Kitson

1889-1918

Norman was born in Middlestown near Wakefield in 1889. His father was Friend Kitson, a Coal Miner born in Thornhill in 1868 and died in 1935. His mother was Louisa (nee Hoyle) born in Flockton near Huddersfield in 1870 and died in 1936. They were married on 13th October 1888 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children, all born in Middlestown were; John, born in 1888, Bernard, born in 1896, and Millicent May, born in 1907.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at Calder Grove, Crigglesstone near Wakefield, in 1901 at New Road Side, Middlestown, in 1911 the address is simply shown as "Middlestown".

Norman was educated at Middlestown Church of England Day School and also the Wesleyan Sunday School. He worked as a Coal Miner/Hurrier for Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton Limited. On the 1911 Census he is living at 5, Lees Grove, Thornhill Lees with the family of his wife-to-be, Edith Bates (born in 1892 and died in 1936) they were married on 2nd December 1911 at St. Michael and All Angels Church and had two children, Lillian, born in 1912 and Eveline, born in 1915. They lived at 149, Lees Grove, Thornhill Lees.

He enlisted in December 1914 in the 10th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) with the Service Number 17/552 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was killed in action in France on 30th 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 to the Missing. Norman was awarded 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 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 War Memorial in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill and on the [Memorial](#) Plaque in the porch of St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton to employees of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton Limited who died in the First World War.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
Norman Kitson

17/552, 10th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 30 March 1918

Husband of Edith Kitson, of 149, Lees Grove, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

