



James Clifford Fitton

1899-1918

James was born in Dewsbury in 1899. His father was Herbert Fitton MRCS LRCP, a Medical Practitioner and Public Vaccinator born in Birkby, Huddersfield in 1862 and died in 1918. His mother was Hannah Adelaide (nee Knowles) born on in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1956. They were married on 31st January 1894 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

They had two other sons; George Herbert Knowles, born in 1897 and died in 1897 and Geoffrey Knowles, born in 1902 and later became a Medical Practitioner.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 46, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury.

James was educated at Wheelwright Grammar School and Huddersfield College School. He was apprenticed to Mr. Harold Walker, Dyer, Hirst Road, Dewsbury and was a member of Dewsbury Tennis Club and Dewsbury Liberal Club.

He joined the Royal Flying Corps as a 3rd Class Air Mechanic in April 1917 and was sent to Farnborough. A comment on his record states that he was "*keen and efficient*". He made his first flight at Tadcaster and subsequently completed his training at Hythe. On 2nd October 1917 the London Gazette announced his promotion to Temporary 2nd Lieutenant (probationary) from 26th September. His service records note that on 17th December 1917 he was deemed to have lost confidence in flying. He was sent to France on 19th March 1918 serving in the 48th Squadron. On 1st April 1918 the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service were merged to form the Royal Air Force and on that same date his rank was made permanent. He was killed in aerial combat over the Western Front on 15th May 1918 whilst acting as Observer to Lieutenant Clifford Lee Glover; the aircraft in which they were flying was a Bristol F2B C855. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial. James was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Flying Services Memorial commemorates almost 1,000 airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, the Australian Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force, either by attachment from other arms of the forces of the Commonwealth or by original enlistment, who were killed on the whole of the Western Front and who have no known grave. The Memorial will be found in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, which is in the Boulevard du General de Gaulle in the western part of the town of Arras.

James 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 commemorating former pupils of Wheelwright Grammar School and on the Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill.

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant

James Clifford Fitton

48th Sqdn., Royal Air Force who died on 15 May 1918 Age 18

Son of Mrs. H. Fitton, of 46, Eightlands Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks, and the late Dr Fitton, (who died 21st August 1918).

Remembered with Honour
Arras Flying Services Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

