



Norman Goddard

1897-1918

Norman was born in Batley in 1897. His father was George Goddard, a Cloth Finisher born in Holmfirth in 1852 and died in 1926. His mother was Judith (nee Lancaster) born in Gomersal in 1853 and died in 1909. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 30th November 1872.

Their first three children were all born in Batley; Ruth, born in 1875, Ada, born in 1877, Emily, born in 1881. The next four were all born in Germany; Ethel, born in 1883, Carrie, born in 1886. George, born in 1887 and John William, born in 1888 and was killed in action 25th September 1916.

The growing mechanisation of the German textile industry mean that a lot of recruitment was undertaken in the West Riding to increase the expertise available in Germany.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 2, Butterbowl, Farnley, Leeds, in 1901 at 62, Purlwell Lane, Batley and in 1918 at Cardwell Grove, Savile Town. In 1910; Carrie, George Jnr, John and Norman sailed from Liverpool on the SS 'Empress of Ireland' bound for St. John's, Newfoundland. In the newspaper report of his death there was mention that he had spent time in Detroit, Michigan, USA so it is likely that this was their intended destination.

Norman was single man who was educated at Purlwell School and was connected to Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and also the Gospel Hall. He worked for a time in Detroit (see above) but upon the family's return to the UK he worked with his father who was head cloth finisher at Messrs John Fenton and Sons, Headfield Mills, Savile Town.

He enlisted in August 1915 into the Royal Army Medical Corps with the Service Number 62310. He was sent to Gallipoli on 2nd December 1915 and during the evacuation he was carrying a wounded man on a stretcher when a shell fragment hit his kitbag and lodged in a tin of salmon which undoubtedly saved his life. After leaving on a vessel, it was struck by a torpedo which fortunately did not explode on contact. In 1916 he spent some time in Egypt and then Mesopotamia and after that to German East Africa for twelve months, during which time he suffered from four attacks of Malaria and one of Black Fever, being eventually invalided to Cape Town and finally back home for six weeks. In October 1917 he was sent to the Western Front joining the 2nd/2nd Wessex Field Ambulance where he was accidentally run over by a motor-lorry on 31st October 1918 and died in an ambulance on the way to hospital. He is buried in St. Pol British Cemetery, St. Pol-Sur-Ternoise, Pas-de-Calais, France. Norman was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of St. Pol is about 29 Kms south-west of Bethune and 34 Kms west-north-west of Arras. St. Pol British Cemetery contains 258 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Norman is 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 from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Norman Goddard

62310, 2nd/2nd Wessex Field Amb, Royal Army Medical Corps who died on 31 October 1918 Age 21

Son of George and Judith Goddard. of Mount Pleasant, Batley, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

St. Pol British Cemetery, St. Pol-Sur-Ternoise



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone Photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.