



## **Norman Josiah Padget**

### **1896-1916**

Norman was born in Batley Carr on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1896 and baptised at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1896. His father was Willie Padget, a House Painter and later a Hotel Publican born in Alverthorpe, Wakefield in 1865 and died in 1945. His mother was Lucy (née Tolson) born in Batley in 1866 and died in 1947. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1889.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 24, Belvedere Road, Batley, in 1901 at 27, Naylor Street, Batley Carr, in 1911 at the Carr Hotel, Town Street, Batley Carr and later at the Albion Hotel, Batley Carr where Norman acted as an assistant to his father.

Norman attended the Batley Carr Church Day School and the Church and Sunday school. He was a member of Batley Rugby League Football Club and took a great interest in the "Gallant Youths".

He was called up under the "Derby Scheme" and on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1916 he departed by train to Pontefract, serving as Private 26162 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. After a few months of training he was sent to the Western Front and was later transferred into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Special Brigade of the Royal Engineers serving as Pioneer 128595. He was killed in action in France on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1916 and was buried in Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, Pas-de-Calais, France. Norman was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

A letter was received by his parents from Corporal. C.F.J. Richardson dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916. *"I feel it is my duty to write these few lines expressing my deepest sympathy to you in the loss of Norman who was killed in action on 5<sup>th</sup> October. I was a pal of his and I am much upset and very sorry that this has happened. I know it will be hard for you to bear, but I hope God will give you strength to endure the sad bereavement which has befallen you. I may say his death was instantaneous."*

Mazingarbe lies between Bethune and Lens. The cemetery was started in August 1915, in 1916 it was taken over by the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division, who held the Loos Salient at the time, and many of their dead were brought back to the cemetery from the front line. There are now 1,996 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, 277 of them unidentified.

Norman is commemorated as *Norman Padgett* on the Dewsbury War Memorial in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *N Padgett* on the Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church and as *Norman J Padgett* on both the War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Pioneer

**N J Padget**

128595, 2nd Bn. Special Bde., Royal Engineers who died on 05 October 1916

Son of Mr. W. Padget, of Albion Hotel, Batley Carr, Dewsbury,.

Remembered with Honour

**Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Diane Shaw.