Norman Josiah Padget





Rank: - Pioneer

Number: - 128595

Regiment: - Royal Engineers 2nd Battalion Special Brigade (formerly 26162 KOYLI)

Killed in Action: - 5th October 1916

Cemetery: - Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France I.H.35

Family Details

Norman was born on 5th June 1896 in Batley Carr, the son of Willie and Lucy Padgett (nee Tolson) and was baptised at St. Mark's, Dewsbury on the 19th July 1896 when his father gave his occupation as a painter. Before their marriage Lucy had been a post mistress and resided at Mount Pleasant.

In 1901 the family was living at 27, Naylor Street, Batley Carr and Willie was a house painter. Sometime before 1911 Willie changed his occupation and the family had moved to the Carr Hotel, Town Street, Batley Carr. Norman was their only surviving child.

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

Before the outbreak of war, the family moved to the Albion Hotel, Bradford Road, Batley Carr and Norman assisted his father with the business.

Service Details

Norman was one of the first local men to be called up under the Derby Scheme. On Thursday 20th January 1916 he presented himself at Dewsbury Town Hall and after being photographed with other members of the group on the town hall steps he departed by train to Pontefract. After a few months of training in home camps he was sent to France. He always wrote home in a bright and cheerful manner and only mentioned personal and domestic affairs. There was nothing for the censor to erase and he noted "I *am going to finish with a clean a sheet as I began and have nothing erased out"*

The first indication of his death came from Corpl. C.F.J. Richardson whose letter was dated 7th October

"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 5th 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."

A further letter was received the following day from Second Lieut. B. W. Whitfield dated 8th October: -

"I this opportunity of offering you my deepest sympathy in the terrible loss you have suffered by the death of your son Norman J. Padget who was killed in action on the 5th. I sincerely pray you will be strengthened and comforted in this time of trouble. I feel his loss very much. He was a good worker, very steady, reliable in the line and much liked in the section for his cheerful disposition. We buried him and two others, who were killed at the same time, this morning in a little British cemetery not far from here. I cannot give you the name of the place just yet, but I will do so later on.

Norman is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church and Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group