

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



EDGAR GREEN D.C.M.

WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

KILLED IN ACTION 16TH APRIL 1918

BORN IN 1891 AT SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN, THE SON OF
JOSHUA AND SARAH GREEN

Green Family History

- **1891 census** shows Joshua, his wife Sarah and their 3 children living at Low Fold, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Joshua (Head)	35	Farmer and scavenger	Linton	1856
Sarah Elizabeth	33		Junction, Skipton	1858
Emma	7	Scholar	Earby	1884
John	5	Scholar	Earby	1886
Edgar	Baby		Sutton-in-Craven	1891 - 1918

- **1901 census** shows Joshua, his wife Sarah and their 4 children now living at Garden Cottage, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Joshua (Head)	45	General labourer	Linton	1856
Sarah Elizabeth	43		Junction, Skipton	1858
Emma	17	Pattern worker in worsted	Earby	1884
John	15	Bobbin piler for worsted	Earby	1886
Edgar	10		Sutton-in-Craven	1891 - 1918
Allan	7		Sutton-in-Craven	1894

- **1911 census** shows Joshua and Sarah had been married for 28 years and that of their 4 children born alive, all 4 were still living. It also shows the Green family still living at Garden Cottage, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Joshua (Head)	55	Farm labourer	Linton in Craven	1856
Sarah Elizabeth	53		Parish of Kildwick	1858
John	25	Machine fitter	Parish of Thornton	1886
Edgar	20	Worsted weaver	Sutton-in-Craven	1891 - 1918
Allan	17	Apprentice iron turner	Sutton-in-Craven	1894

During the Great War the Green family had relocated and were now living at 2, Daisy Place, Sutton-in-Craven.



Daisy Place
(photo taken by Barbara and Allen Chapman)

World War 1



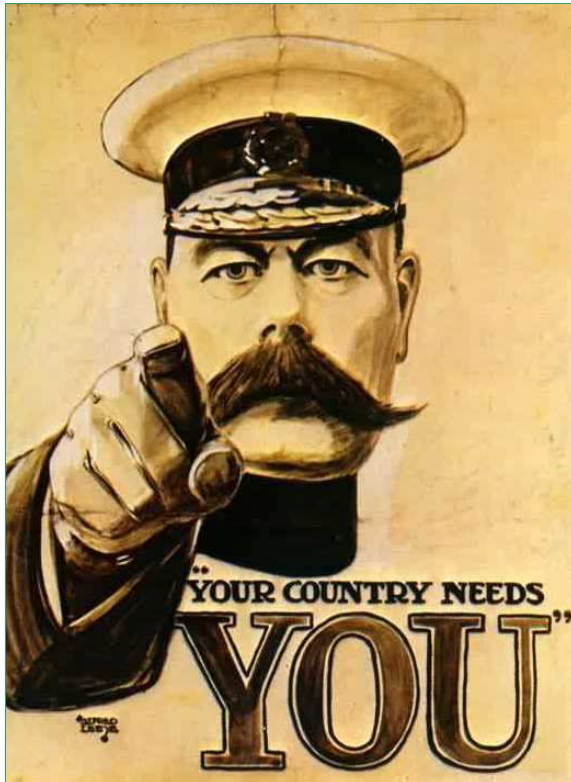
It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

August 4th 1914

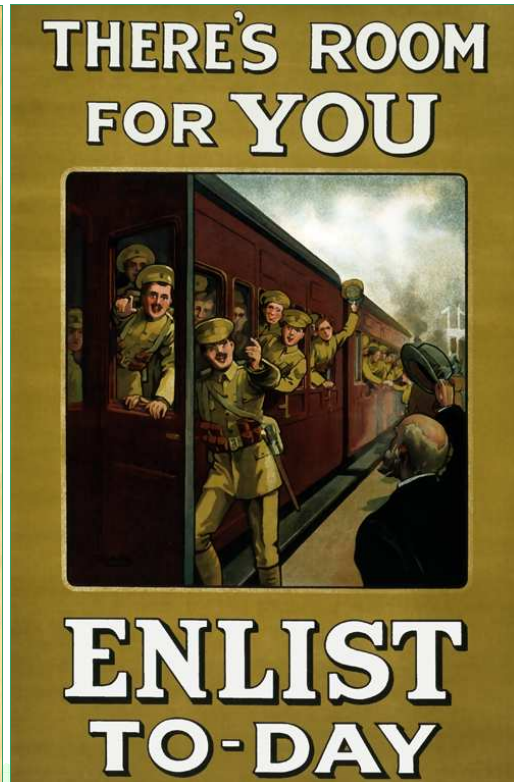
Britain declares war on Germany

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as **'Kitchener's Volunteers'**

The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914



Parliamentary Recruiting Committee
London 1915 (August)



Officers instructing new recruits, Manningham Park, 1914 (Kitchener's Volunteers)
(source: *The Bradford Pals* Ralph N. Hudson 2nd Ed, 1993)

Prior to enlistment, Edgar Green worked at Messrs. S. Sunderland, Fleece Mills, Keighley. He was a keen footballer playing outside right in the Sutton Association Football Club in the Keighley & District and Bradford District Leagues. He also trained for some time with Bradford Park Avenue football club playing in some of their reserve team games.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Edgar Green responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the 1/7th (Leeds Rifles) battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment. His regimental number was 1983 and he commenced with the rank of Lance Corporal.

He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Sergeant and later issued a second regimental number 305361.

During the Great War, the West Yorkshire Regiment raised a total of 37 battalions, including Territorials. 66 Battle Honours were bestowed and 4 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the West Yorkshire Regiment.



WW1 West Yorkshire Regiment Cap Badge

Lance Corporal Green entered the Theatre of War on the 16th April 1915 when the 1/7th (Leeds Rifles) battalion landed at Boulogne in France.

Name. GREEN Edgar		Corps. W Yorks R	Regt. No. 1988 305361
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	0/2/104 639	5044	
BRITISH	do	do	
15 STAR	0/2/115 278	Km A	
Theatre of War first served in		W France	
Date of entry therein		16-4-15	

K. 1380.

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Edgar Green (source: *The National Archives*)



Sergeant Edgar Green

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

Gallantry Award

Less than 7 months after arriving in France, Edgar Green was awarded the **Distinguished Conduct Medal** for conspicuous gallantry on the 6th November 1915



The Distinguished Conduct Medal is ranked as a superior decoration to the Military Medal and was awarded to non-commissioned Officers and lower ranks.

It is the army's second ranking gallantry award after the Victoria Cross and was almost always seen as a "near miss for the Victoria Cross"



Article Date: 17 December 1915

SUTTON SOLDIER WINS A D.C.M.

Lance-Corporal Edgar Green, of the 1/8th West Yorkshire Regiment, has received the Distinguished Conduct Medal for behaving with great gallantry near Turco Farm on the 6th November last. He extricated four men who had been buried by shellfire in full view of the enemy and under shellfire from a high velocity quick-firing gun.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

956 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 22 JANUARY, 1916.

1983 Lance-Corporal E. Green, 1st/8th Battalion (Leeds Rifles), West Yorkshire Regiment, T.F.

For conspicuous gallantry near Turco Farm on 6th November, 1915. When four men had been buried through shell fire, Serjeant Pearson, Lance-Corporal Green and Private Benson successfully rescued all four, although they went in full view of the enemy's fire trench and were being shelled by a high velocity quick-firing gun.

London Gazette entry, 1916
(source: www.gazettes-online.co.uk)

News of the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Lance-Corporal Edgar Green was also announced in the West Yorkshire Pioneer as follows:



Article Date: 17 December 1915

SUTTON SOLDIER GAINS THE D.C.M. - LANCE-CORPORAL EDGAR GREEN

The whole district rejoices in the honour which has come to the village of Sutton, in that one of her sons has received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Lance-Corporal Edgar Green, of the 1st 8th West Yorkshire Regiment, is the youngest son of Mr. Joshua Green, Orchard House, Sutton-in-Craven. Prior to the outbreak of war Lance-Corporal Green was employed at Keighley. He was amongst the first to offer himself, joining the Leeds Rifles (West Yorkshire Regiment). For some years he was a prominent football enthusiast, playing first with the Sutton Association Club as left wing, where he gained a name as a good sportsman. He also played several matches with the Park Avenue Reserves, and holds several medals which were won whilst playing with the Keighley Celtic and Steeton Clubs. Lance-Corporal Green has not been without his adventures whilst at the front. Along with a companion he was buried in a trench whilst sheltering, the cause being a land-slip through continuous rain. He wrote home remarking that he had only received a shaking. During November a card was received by his sister, Mrs. George Simons, intimating that his conduct in the field had been brought to the notice of high authority. It was as follows:- "Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you have distinguished yourself by your conduct in the field, on the 6th November, 1915. I have read their report with much pleasure and have brought it to the notice of higher authority. E. M. PERCIVAL, Major General, Commanding 49th (W.R.) Division."

Lance-Corporal Green, D.C.M., in writing to his sister this week, says:- "We have got to know this morning (Dec. 9th) that all three of us have won the D.C.M. There were our platoon sergeant, a Rifleman, and myself. We got it for digging four of the lads out of a dug-out, which had been knocked in by a shell. We had to take part of the top off to get at them. They were shelling us all the time. We were exposed to the German trenches, but they must not have noticed us, as we never got any bullets. It was a captain in the 6th Battalion that

MEDAL INDEX CARD showing DCM award (source: *The National Archives*)

The Western Front

The Western Front was the name applied to the fighting zone in France & Flanders, where the British, French, Belgian and later American armies faced that of Germany.

It was marked by a system of trenches and fortifications separated by an area known as 'No Man's land'. These fortifications stretched 475 miles and precipitated a style of fighting known as trench warfare.

From the moment the German army moved into Luxemburg on the 2nd August 1914 to the Armistice on the 11th November 1918, the fighting on the Western Front in France & Flanders never stopped.

Just as there were quiet periods, there were also the most intense, savage, huge-scale battles the world has ever known.



In the Firing Line - British trench



Article Date: 14 July 1916

A SUTTON D.C.M. WOUNDED

Mrs. George Simons, of Sutton, has received a letter from her brother, Sergt. E. Green, of the West Yorkshire Regiment, and after thanking her for parcels, says he has been slightly wounded. He considers those lucky who have come out of the recent fighting without a scratch. The local Terriers had not been in the fighting when he came out of the trenches. He was not far behind the firing line as they were in support of the battalions at present engaged in the fighting. He was sure they had had the best of it in the recent advance, and the Germans were glad to be taken prisoners in their portion of the line at any rate.

Some of the German prisoners looked nearly 50 years of age. He saw one of them carrying a wounded English soldier on his back. Sergt. Green goes on to say he is thankful for good nerves, and at the end of his very cheerful letter, in which he says he thinks the Germans will be beaten before long, he again refers to his wound, and says they need not be alarmed as he is back again with his battalion.

Last week Mrs. Simons received from the authorities the Distinguished Conduct Medal, which her brother won last November for digging men out under shellfire. For this he was made Lance-Corporal and has since been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

The following year in 1917, Sergeant Green was **Wounded in Action** again, this time the result of a gas attack



A poison gas attack, WW1



Article Date: 24 August 1917

SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN - SERGEANT EDGAR GREEN 'GASSED'

News was received last week that Sergt. Edgar Green, D.C.M., of the West Yorkshire Regiment, had been gassed in the recent heavy fighting in France. He arrived at Netley Hospital on the 10th of August. He had been wounded twice previously, and he won the Distinguished Conduct Medal in November 1915, by digging three men out of a dugout which had been knocked in by a German shell. Sergt. Green was at that time Lance Corporal, and he and others dug out the men, being all the time exposed to the German fire. For this he was made full Corporal, subsequently being promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The inhabitants of Sutton presented him with a purse of gold for his bravery.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

The Western Front 1918

It was the Russian Revolution in 1917 that finally changed the nature of the deadlock and war of attrition in the west.

Fighting halted in the east allowing the Germans to transfer many Divisions to the Western Front. They knew that time was running out, for the United States of America had entered the war on the Allied side and it was only a matter of time before vast untapped reserves of manpower swung the balance in the favour of the Allies.

The treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Lenin's Russian government on the 3rd March 1918 freed up to 700,000 German soldiers. Troops that were more accustomed to movement than their counterparts in the trench bound stalemate of the Western Front.

The German high commander General Ludendorff realised that he could not beat the Allies in one single, massive battle. So he put together a strategy of major assaults across the entire Western Front known as the major spring offensive of 1918.

These assaults would be led by hardened soldiers, specifically trained in the art of fire and maneuver known as Storm Troopers. Their objective was to move swiftly against the enemy forcing the British forces back to the Channel ports and thereby out of the war. Regular troops would then mop up and consolidate behind them. The enemy would not get the chance to recuperate.

The German army finally struck with a number of large-scale, last-ditch offensives from March 1918 including **The Battle of the Lys** from the 9th April – 29th April.

Eventually the manpower advantage enjoyed by Germany would be gone as the American forces slowly built up to strength and their exhausted efforts forced the Germans to call for an Armistice in November 1918.



German trench raiders during an attack on the Western Front, 1918

The Battle of the Lys

9th – 29th April 1918

The Battle of the Lys, also known as the Fourth Battle of Ypres, was part of the 1918 German spring offensive in Flanders.

The Battle of the Lys was the second of General Ludendorff's offensives of 1918, designed to win the war for Germany before the ever increasing number of American troops in France could enter the fighting. He believed the Western Front must be stormed and a surrender forced before US troops arrive in strength

Facing the great German offensive of 1918 at Lys were 25 Divisions of the British First and Second Armies.

This included the **1/7th Leeds Rifles Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment** who now formed part of the 146th Brigade, 49th Division.

During the intense fighting at The Battle of the Lys, Sergeant Edgar Green was **Killed in Action** on the 16th April 1918.

Ironically he was killed three years to the day after he first landed at Boulogne in France on the 16th April 1915

He was 27 years of age



Casualty Details

Name: GREEN, EDGAR

Initials: E

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Serjeant

Regiment/Service: West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Unit Text: 1st/7th Bn.

Age: 27

Date of Death: 16/04/1918

Service No: 305361

Awards: D C M

Additional information: Son of Joshua Green, of 2, Daisy Place, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, Yorks.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 42 to 47 and 162.

Memorial: TYNE COT MEMORIAL

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)



Article Date: 03 May 1918

Sergeant Edgar Green, D.C.M., Sutton

Residents in Sutton and district were deeply moved on Saturday morning when news came that Sergeant Edgar Green, D.C.M., of the West Yorkshires had been killed by a shell in the recent German offensive. He was one of those who enlisted at the outbreak of war, and had been previously wounded, going back to the front in January last. In November 1915, he was one of those selected from his battalion to be reviewed by the King when on a visit to the Front, and in a letter home at that time he said it was a fine sight to see the men march past His Majesty, alongside who was Sir John French. He was awarded the D.C.M. in December 1915 for behaving with great gallantry on November 6th in extricating four men who had been buried by shellfire, in full view of the enemy, and under shellfire. In January 1916 Sergeant Green (he was then Corporal) was presented by Mr. Laurence Preston with a purse of gold subscribed by friends in the village to mark their appreciation of his gallantry in the trenches, and he was also presented with a silver English lever watch, subscribed for by the members of the firm and the employers of Messrs. S. Sunderland, Fleece Mills, Keighley (where he was employed prior to joining the Army), as a token of their appreciation of his gallant conduct. He was slightly wounded in July 1916, and later was gassed, going back to the Front in January of this year. Sergeant Green was a popular outside right of the Sutton Association Football Club in the Keighley and District and Bradford District Leagues in pre-war days, and he also trained for some time with the Bradford Club at Park Avenue, and played in some of their reserve team's games.

In a letter to the father, Lieutenant M. Wilkinson of the West Yorkshire's says:- "He was killed by a shell and suffered no pain. Sergeant Green was more than my Sergeant; he was my friend, and a sound, capable, clean living man. He was a splendid example to his men. I offer my sincerest sympathy to you in your trouble."

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

TYNE COT MEMORIAL



Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

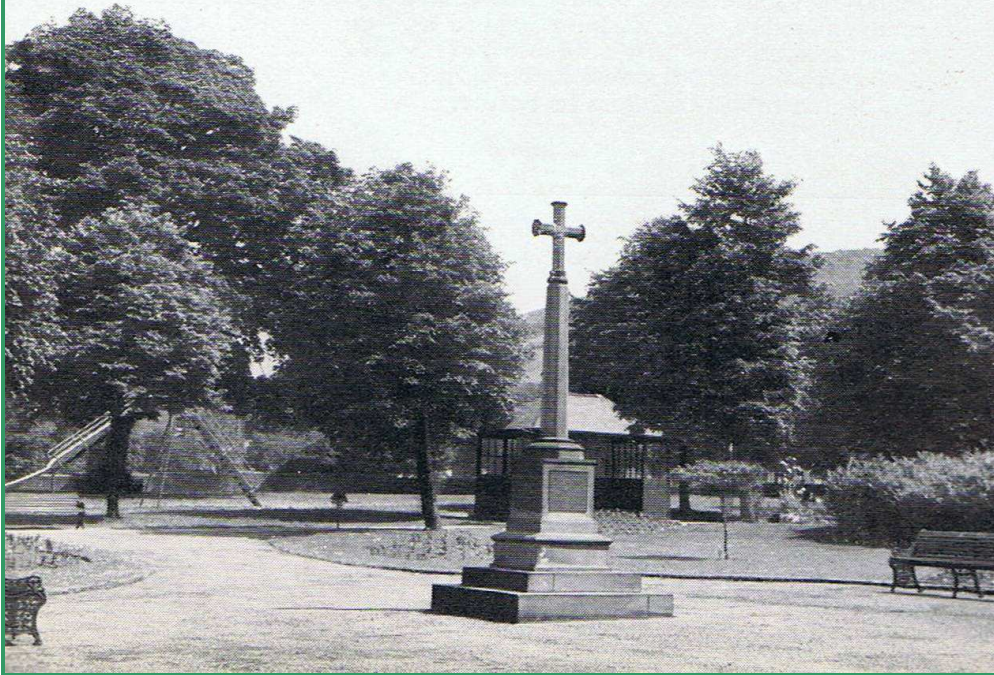
The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. It bears the names of 34,935 officers and men, including Pte Edgar Green, whose graves are not known.

It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

Sergeant Edgar Green is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial

WAR MEMORIAL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARK



(source: *South Craven, the official guide*, 1950)



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)

Sergeant Edgar Green was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original DCM group of WW1



Original DCM group of WW1 medals
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

Lest we Forget

CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



SERGT. EDGAR GREEN, D.C.M., West Yorks
Regt., of Sutton, killed in action May, 1918.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

(original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)