

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



WILLIE HARGREAVES

DUKE OF WELLINGTON REGIMENT

KILLED IN ACTION 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1917

BORN IN 1895 AT CONONLEY, THE SON OF JAMES AND  
ANNIE HARGREAVES AND HUSBAND OF DORIS  
HARGREAVES (NEE RILEY)

# Hargreaves Family History

- **1891 census** shows James, his wife Annie and their 2 children living at 123, Aireside Terrace, Cononley as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
James (Head)	25	Milk seller	Cononley	1865 - 1947
Annie (wife)	23		Sutton-in-Craven	1867 - 1960
Norman	4	Scholar	Cononley	1887
Elizabeth Ellen	1		Cononley	1890

- **1901 census** shows James, Annie and their 6 children living at 51 Back Lane, Cononley as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
James (Head)	35	Gas Stoker	Cononley	1865 - 1947
Annie (wife)	33		Sutton-in-Craven	1867 - 1960
Norman	14	Worsted spinner	Cononley	1887
Elizabeth Ellen	11		Cononley	1890
Edith	8		Cononley	1893
Willie	6		Cononley	1895 - 1917
Allan	4		Cononley	1897
Lily	1		Cononley	1900

- **1911 census** shows that James and Annie had been married for 25 years and that of their 7 children born alive, all 7 were still living. It also shows the Hargreaves family now living at 6, Jackson Street, Holme Bridge, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
James (Head)	45	Gas worker labourer	Cononley	1865 - 1947
Annie (wife)	43	Housewife	Sutton-in-Craven	1867 - 1960
Elizabeth Ellen	21	Worsted weaver	Cononley	1890
Edith	18	Worsted weaver	Cononley	1893
Willie	16	Worsted weaver	Cononley	1895 - 1917
Allan	14	Worsted yarn doffer	Cononley	1897
Lily	11	Juvenile	Cononley	1900
Annie	8	Juvenile	Cononley	1903



(source: original postcard owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

During the Great War the Hargreaves family were now recorded as living at 8, Crag View, Sutton-in-Craven.



Crag View, Sutton-in-Craven  
(photo taken by Barbara & 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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'**



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914



Parliamentary Recruiting Committee  
London, 1914 (December)

## The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"



Rifle drill, Manningham Park, 1914 (Kitchener's New Army)  
(source: *The Bradford Pals* Ralph N. Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, 1993)

Prior to enlistment, Willie Hargreaves worked as a worsted weaver at Messrs T. and M. Bairstow's Mill at Sutton-in-Craven.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Willie Hargreaves responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the 1/6th battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) in September 1914. His regimental number was 2702 and his rank was Private.

He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and issued a second regimental number 265696

The West Riding Regiment raised 24 battalions during WW1 including the 1/6th (Territorial Force) battalion at Skipton on the 4th August 1914.



# OFFICERS SERVING IN THE 1/6<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION WEST RIDING REGIMENT INCLUDED

Lieut-Colonel C.M. Bateman

Capt A.B. Clarkson

Capt N.B. Chaffers

**All Directors of T & M Bairstow's Mill, Sutton-in-Craven**

Also Capt C.F. Horsfall of Hayfield Mill, son of Sir John & Lady Horsfall



LIEUT.-COL. C. M. BATEMAN, D.S.O., T.D.



Capt. Horsfall.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)





WW1 Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) Cap Badge

## Officers of 1/6th West Riding Regiment group photo

1/6th DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT.



LEFT TO RIGHT. Back Row, standing—2nd Lieut. V. E. W. Greaves, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) N. Geldard, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut. (now Capt.) S. H. Clough, M.C.  
 SECOND Row. Standing—Major E. G. Whittaker, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) L. Jaques, 2nd Lieut. T. S. Whitaker (K.), 2nd Lieut. E. J. C. Supple (K.), Lieut. H. Knowles (K.),  
 Capt. M. Wright, 2nd Lieut. (Capt.) C. F. Horsfall (K.), Capt. (now Major) T. K. Wright, M.B.E., 2nd Lieut. P. F. Stuck, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. M.  
 Robinson, Lieut. A. E. K. Slingsby (K.), Lieut. (now Capt.) C. H. Petty.  
 Sitting.—Capt. (now Major) N. B. Chaffers, M.C., Lieut. (now Capt.) H. Dixon, Capt. (now Major) A. B. Clarkson, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. S. F. Marriner (Adj.), Lieut.-Col.  
 Birbeck (C.O.), Major C. P. Cass, Lieut. (now Capt.) and Qt.-Master J. Churchman, D.C.M., Capt. K. Nicholson, Major (now Lieut.-Col.) C. M. Bateman, D.S.O., T.D.  
 Front Row—2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. C. Barrett, 2nd Lieut. T. Brayshaw, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) F. L. Smith, M.C., 2nd Lieut. (A/Capt) K. Ogston (K.), 2nd Lieut.  
 (A/Capt.) G. B. Buxton, M.C., 2nd Lieut. T. Taylor.



Private Hargreaves entered the Theatre of War on the 29th June 1915 when the 1/6th battalion West Riding Regiment landed at Boulogne in France

33			
Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
HARGREAVES.	W. Rid: R.	Pt.	2702.
Willie			* 265696
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	* 0/2/101 B22	3084	Kin A. 24-6-17. (265696)
BRITISH	— 06 —	—	
15. STAR	0/2/3B.	224.	
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France.		
Date of entry therein	29-6-15.		

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Willie Hargreaves (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.



British trenches, WW1

Within one year of arriving in France, Private Willie Hargreaves had been promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal; and in October 1916 he left the trenches in France for a well earned week of home leave back to Sutton-in-Craven



Article Date: 13 October 1916

**Lance-Corporal Willie Hargreaves, of Sutton, has this week been home on leave from the trenches in France. He is with the Duke of Wellington's, and has been over a year in France. He goes back today (Friday).**

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



Whilst on leave, Willie and his fiancée Miss Doris Riley were married at St Thomas' Church, Sutton-in-Craven on Tuesday the 10th October 1916, just three days before he returned to the trenches in France.



(source: original postcard owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



Article Date: 13 October 1916

### KHAKI WEDDING

On Tuesday afternoon a pretty wedding was solemnised at St. Thomas's Church. The officiating clergyman was Rev. A.R. Light. The parties were Lance Corporal William Hargreaves, of the 'Dukes', second son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hargreaves, of Crag View, Sutton, and Miss Doris Riley, elder daughter of the late Mr. Walter H. Riley of Holme Bridge. The bride, who was given away by her uncle, Mr. Richard William Riley, sub-postmaster, Sutton, was attended by Miss

Marion Riley, her sister, and Miss Edith Hargreaves, sister of the bridegroom. Mr. Norman Hargreaves, eldest brother, acted as best man. The bridegroom is home on furlough from the Front for the first time after 18 months' active service, having been in the midst of some of the heaviest fighting since the beginning of the great push in July. His younger brother, Private Allan Hargreaves, is in the R.F.A. in training. A shadow was cast over the proceedings owing to the absence of Private Norman Riley, elder brother of the bride, who was killed in action in December last.

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

Following the wedding, Willie and his wife Doris were recorded as living at 14, Walton St, Holmfield, Sutton-in-Craven. Willie returned to the trenches in France on the 13th October 1916 just 3 days after the wedding.



German artillery in the moment, WW1



Having survived the battlefields of the Western Front for two years after arriving in France in June 1915, Lance Corporal Willie Hargreaves was **Killed in Action**. He was killed instantaneously by an artillery shell in the front line on the night of the 24th June 1917.

He was 22 years of age



Article Date: 06 July 1917

#### **SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN - ANOTHER SOLDIER KILLED: Lance Corporal Willie Hargreaves**

On Saturday evening Mrs. Willie Hargreaves, of Holmfield, Sutton-in-Craven, received an intimation from Captain T.S. Holland, of the West Riding Regiment, informing her that her husband, Lance Corporal Willie Hargreaves, had been killed in action "Somewhere in France". The letter, which is dated 26th May 1917, is as follows:-

*"Dear Mrs. Hargreaves, - I am truly sorry to have to inform you of the death of your husband. He was killed instantaneously by a shell in the front line on the night of the 24th. He was a most efficient N.C.O. and had become very popular both with his officers, brother N.C.O.s and men, and I know I am speaking for all when I say that his loss will be most deeply regretted by all with whom he came in contact. He always carried out his duties in a most satisfactory manner, and I have lost a very valuable N.C.O., and his men have lost a true comrade, and I cannot express my sympathy as I should like to do, but I hope it will be some consolation for you to know that he died in the execution of his duty like the true soldier he was. He was buried this morning in a well-kept British Cemetery well behind the line, and the service was read over by an Army Chaplain. I hope you will excuse me from writing more, as I am unable to put into words my feelings. Hoping you will bear up bravely under this cruel loss, and assuring you of my deepest sympathy. I remain, yours very truly, (signed) T. S. HOLLAND, Captain O/C, B Company, West Riding Regiment. "*

Lance Corporal Hargreaves joined the West Riding Regiment a month after the outbreak of war, and had been out in France for over two years. At the time of enlistment he was employed by Messrs. T. and M. Bairstow, Sutton Mills. He only had one leave all the time he was in France. He was home on leave at the beginning of last October, and during the time he was home he was quietly married to Miss Doris Riley, of Holmfield. Lance Corporal Hargreaves was of a quiet, unassuming disposition, and as manly a fellow as it was possible to imagine, and his loss is very keenly felt in the two villages. He was known by everyone, and loved by all with whom he came in contact. At the time of his death he was a Lewis gunner. His younger brother, Private Allan Hargreaves, is with the Royal Field Artillery in France.

Private Arnold Leach, also of Holmfield, a pal of Lance Corporal Hargreaves, arrived home on Saturday night on leave from the Front, and he stated that he and several other comrades buried him behind the lines. Private Leach says the Company had been in the trenches two days over the time when his chum was killed. Just before he was killed a big German shell came whizzing past Lance Corporal Hargreaves, who was engaged cleaning his gun, but he never moved, and went on with his work as if nothing had happened. He was cleaning his gun at the time of his death. He had written home regularly and letters were received from him during last week, and the news of his death came as a great shock to his relatives. All the time he has been out he had never once complained, and Private Leach says if his chum had not been killed he would shortly have received his second stripe.

Lance Corporal Hargreaves was an old Sunday School scholar of the Sutton Baptist Sunday School. This is the second loss his widow has sustained. Her brother, Lance Corporal Norman Riley, died of gunshot wounds in the head in December 1915. Lance Corporal Riley had his name sent in for promotion the day he was killed, and his officer at the time of his death wrote home to his parents and said that if he had lived he would probably have been mentioned in despatches for beating off a German bombing attack with his fifteen platoon bombers.

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





## Casualty Details

**Name:** HARGREAVES, WILLIE  
**Initials:** W  
**Nationality:** United Kingdom  
**Rank:** Lance Corporal  
**Regiment/Service:** Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)  
**Unit Text:** "B" Coy. 1st/6th Bn.  
**Age:** 23  
**Date of Death:** 24/06/1917  
**Service No:** 265696  
**Additional information:** Son of James and Annie Hargreaves, of 8, Cragg View, Sutton-in-Craven; husband of Doris Hargreaves, of 14, Walton St., Holmfild, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, Yorks.  
**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead  
**Grave/Memorial Reference:** B. 1.  
**Cemetery:** SAILLY-LABOURSE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION  
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))

Willie's older brother Norman Hargreaves, 'best man' at his wedding eight months earlier, survived the remaining 17 months of the Great War. Their younger brother Allan Hargreaves also survived the war having served with the Royal Field Artillery until his discharge on the 13th October 1921.

For Willie's grieving widow Doris Hargreaves (nee Riley), this was the second loss she had to endure during the Great War after the death of her brother Norman Riley two years earlier.

Ironically, the names of both these soldiers appear next to one another on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial.



# SAILLY-LABOURSE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION



Saily-Labourse Communal Cemetery Extension  
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))

The village of Saily-Labourse was used for rest billets and by field ambulances for much of the First World War. It was close to the battlefield of Loos, but from October 1915 to September 1918 no considerable advance or retirement took place in this sector.

The Saily-Labourse Communal Cemetery Extension contains 215 Commonwealth and 2 German burials from the Great War, including the grave of Willie Hargreaves.

Lance Corporal Willie Hargreaves is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial and on the tomb-stone bearing the name of his parents in the burial ground of St Thomas's Church.





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





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



Tomb-stone in St Thomas' Church burial ground  
 (source: photo taken by Janet Hargreaves)



Lance Corporal Hargreaves was posthumously awarded the  
1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original trio of WW1 medals, obverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)



Original trio of WW1 medals, reverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)  
(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



LANCE-CORPORAL WILLIE HARGREAVES, Duke of Well.'s Regt., of Holmfield, Sutton, killed in action 24th June, 1917.

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

(original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



# FOR THE FALLEN

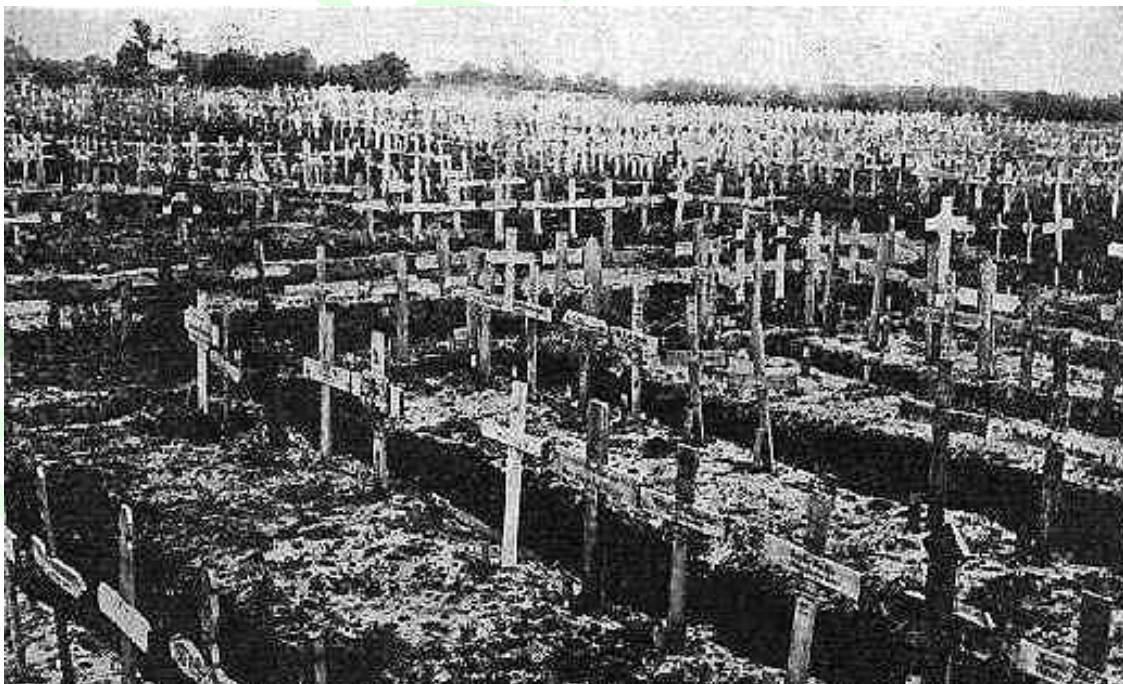
*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE  
LEFT GROW OLD*

*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)