

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Arthur Loader



Rank: Private

**Killed in action: 3rd May
1917 (France & Flanders)**

**2nd Battalion Duke of
Wellington's (West Riding
Regiment)**



Summary

Arthur Loader's family home was 18 Northgate, Upper Hopton where he was raised by his parents William Henry and Clara Loader.

In 1911 he worked as a Hydraulic Leather Maker for James France.

Arthur was killed in action in May 1917 (age 21) whilst serving on the Western Front with the 2nd Batt'n Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).

The remains of Arthur were never found and he is remembered at the Arras Memorial, France.

Three of Arthur's four brothers enlisted for the war, Harry and Stanley fought on the Western Front. His youngest brother Leonard, although he had enlisted, we believe that he was too young to see active service. (Leonard enlisted in the army on the 10th April 1917 and joined the Royal West Kent Regiment).

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Arthur Loader

Family details

Date of Birth	21st January 1896
Date of Baptism	8th March 1896
Church Baptised	St John's, Upper Hopton
Father	William Henry 1863-1936
Father's occupation	Railway signalman
Mother	Clara (nee Mann) 1862-1922
Siblings	Harry, Albert, Stanley, Leonard, Gladys, Hilda
Parents residence	18 Northgate, Upper Hopton
Soldiers residence	Above
Soldiers Occupation	Hydraulic Leather Maker (1911)
Married	
Spouse	
Children	
Burial / Memorial	Bay 6 Arras Memorial, France
Age at death	21

Loader family Census 1911

Arthur's father William Henry was born in Sherborne Dorset in 1863, the Loaders having moved to Mirfield from the Sherborne area of Dorset in the 1870's and he married a local girl Clara Mann on 16 August 1884 at St Mary's Mirfield.

At the outbreak of the Great War most of the family were living at Hollin Hall Lane/Northgate in Upper Hopton. During the war 4 of the boys were to enlist and at least 3 of them saw service in France (Arthur, Stanley and Harry)

Arthur Loader was educated at Lower Hopton Council School and attended Upper Hopton Primitive Methodist Sunday School as a boy.

Before joining up Arthur worked in the textile industry. He worked for James Walker & Sons as a 'warper' and then moved to James France & Co.

The youngest son Leonard enlisted in the army on the 10th April 1917 and joined the Royal West Kent Regiment (Reg. No. 22355)

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Arthur Loader

Tale of two cousins

Arthur Loader was born in Mirfield in January 1896, the fourth surviving son of William Henry Loader (a railway signalman) and his wife Clara (maiden name Mann) who lived in a cottage at Northgate (‘Nogget’) Upper Hopton.

Later that year Arthur’s cousin George Herbert Loader was born, a second surviving son for John Loader and his wife Hephse (née Moore), who lived in New Scarboro’, Mirfield. As John Loader was also a railway signalman, we can assume that the two families had frequent contact with one another and that Arthur and George being of the same age grew up knowing each other well.

Certainly both of them experienced a boyhood and upbringing fairly typical for children from working class families at the time. Arthur went to Lower Hopton Council School and attended Sunday School at Upper Hopton Primitive Methodist Chapel, later becoming a worshipper at the Hopton Congregational Church. In his early teens he went to work at James Walker and Sons mill as a warper, and then worked for James France and Co. at the Wesley Place Mills, Dewsbury.

George’s experience was very similar. He received his education at the Knowle Wesleyan Day School and attended the United Methodist Free Church, New Scarboro’. Like many in his family he then found work on the railways, becoming an engine cleaner with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company based at the ‘sheds’ in Lower Hopton.

The cousins continued to follow a similar path, when they joined the British Infantry during World War One.

Arthur enlisted in February 1916 becoming a private in the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).

The ‘Dewsbury and District News’ of June 30 1917 reported that George: ‘was called up with the Duke of Wellington’s on the outbreak of war but was detained in England for a considerable time on account of his age’. He was allocated to the 2nd/5th battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), a territorial battalion raised in Huddersfield between October 1914 and March 1915. The battalion was deployed on the Western Front in early 1917.

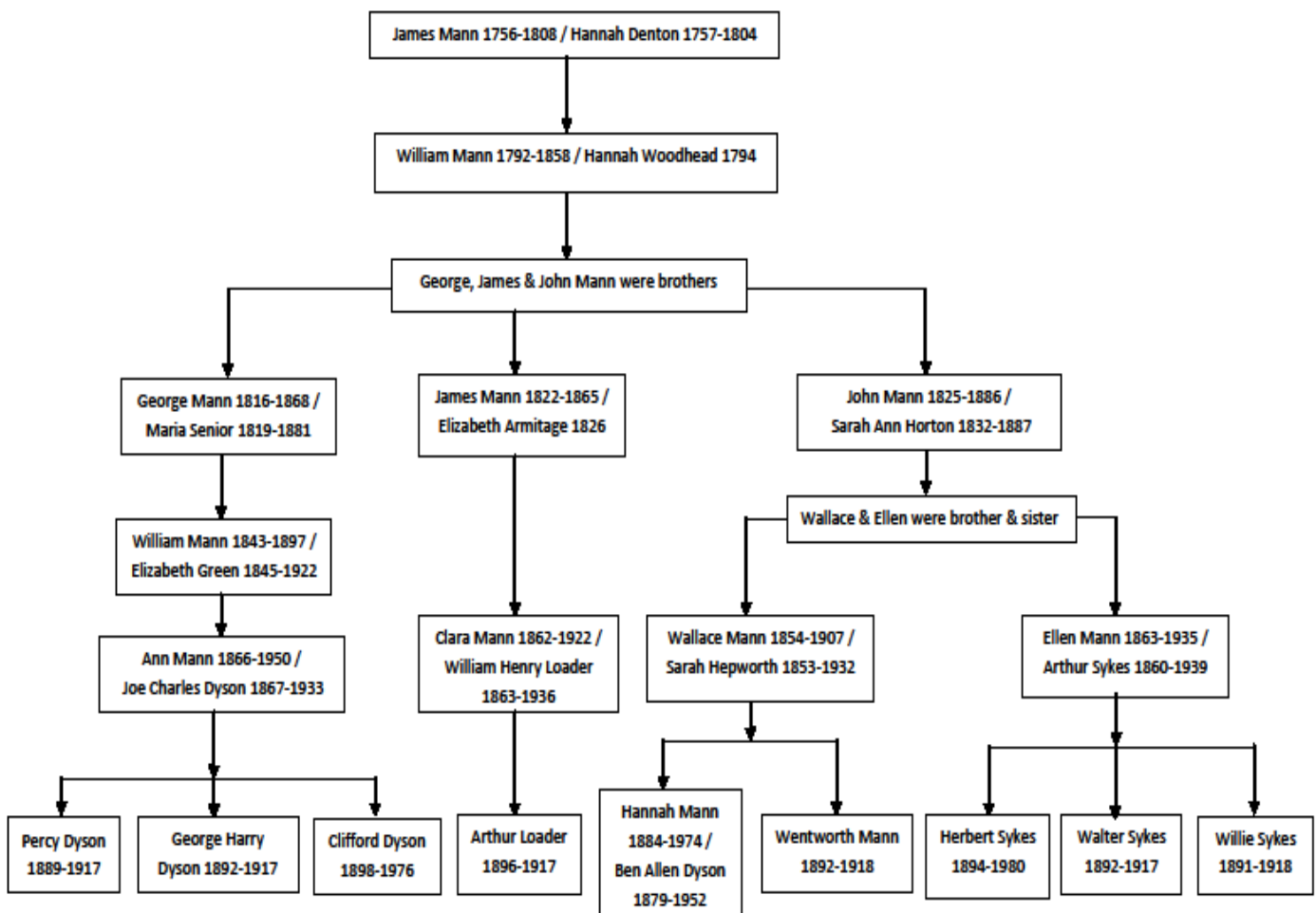


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Arthur Loader

Links between Upper Hopton families that lost their sons in WW1

WW1 links between the families Loader, Mann, Dyson & Sykes



Arthur Loader, Wentworth Mann, Walter Sykes and Willie Sykes, Percy Dyson & George Harry Dyson all lost their lives in WW1. Herbert Sykes the brother of Walter & Willie was badly injured, Clifford Dyson also survived the war. Ben Allen Dyson and Joe Charles Dyson are brothers.

Harry Loader

1911 census showing Harry in Lancashire

Harry went on to marry a weaver Ruth Stansfield on the 22nd May 1912.

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Arthur Loader

Military Details

Attestation / Enlistment

Deployment

February 1916 (based on Reporter newspaper 16 Mar 1916)

Rank

Private

Medals

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Regiment number

235206

Regiment

2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's
(West Riding Regiment)

Regimental Badge



Killed in Action

3rd May 1917 (France & Flanders)

Cemetery or Memorial

Bay 6 Arras Memorial, France

Age at death

21

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Arthur Loader

Action seen by the 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington Regiment

1914

The Battle of Mons and subsequent retreat, The Battle of Le Cateau and the Affair of Crepy-en-Valois, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, The Battles of La Basse and Messines 1914, The First Battle of Ypres.

1915

The Second Battle of Ypres and the Capture of Hill 60.

14.01.1916 Transferred to the 12th Brigade of the 4th Division.

1916

The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Le Transloy.

1917

The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Third Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, The First Battle of Passchendaele.

10.02.1918 Transferred to the 10th Brigade of the 4th Division;

1918

The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battle of Hazebrouck, The Battle of Bethune, The Advance in Flanders, The Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Drocourt-Queant, The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The Battle of the Selle, The Battle of Valenciennes.

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Arthur Loader

The following has been compiled by John Hemingway (John's grandfather was a brother of Arthur Loader).

Arthur enlisted in February 1916 becoming a private in the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). He was posted as missing in action on 3 May 1917 when his battalion were engaged in the Arras offensive. He was 21.

The 2nd battalion war diary records shows that they occupied trenches near the village of Fampoux four miles east of Arras on 1 May 1917, before moving forward to take up a position in assembly trenches south of the railway line the following evening. By midnight on May 2, Arthur Loader and his comrades were in position to go 'over the top', their final objective being some 2 miles away.

The 2nd Battalion were tasked with capturing the chemical works in the small town of Fampoux to the NE of Arras. After initial success the battalion experienced counter attacks and suffered heavy casualties, this would be when Arthur was lost.

Meanwhile 12 miles to the south-east, his cousin George Loader and companies of the 2/5 Battalion were also entering the line. At 9.15 pm on May 2, the battalion marched to positions along the railway embankment at Écoust St Mein just to the south west of the heavily fortified village of Bullecourt. Their objective was to attack the Hindenberg Line west of Bullecourt.

Zero hour for both sets of men was 3.45 a.m. on May 3 1917.

At Fampoux the second battalion managed to advance about 2000 yards before all the surviving officers became casualties and the remaining men were forced to fall back to a position about 1000 yards ahead of their jumping off point. Heavy fighting continued all day with heavy casualties.

The battalion war diary records the following casualty list at 10 p.m. on May 3:

'Officers – 1 killed, 2 wounded, 5 wounded and missing, 4 missing. Other ranks – 9 killed, 103 wounded, 279 missing'

The 2/5th battalion were also suffering heavy casualties. Although one company reached its objective, they were eventually bombed out, while the other 3 companies came under heavy fire in front of the German front line trench. As well as 13 officers killed, wounded or missing the war diary records :

'NCO & Men killed 2, missing 123, wounded 275'

Among the missing men were Arthur Loader and George Loader, both lost on the same day.

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Arthur Loader


When the story reached West Yorkshire it was reported in the local press as were other families' losses. The 'Dewsbury Reporter' carried the following story:

DEWSBURY REPORTER (SATURDAY JUNE 30 1917)

The local paper reported: "COUSINS MISSING FIRST DAY IN THE LINE Pte George H. Loader, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs John Loader of 2, Fenton Street, Mirfield, is officially reported missing since May 3rd, the day on which he entered the trenches for the first time. His cousin Pte. Arthur Loader, of the same regiment, son of Mr William H. Loader, Northgate, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, is also reported missing from the same date. Pte George H. Loader is 20 and Pte Arthur Loader, 22, and the latter has two brothers Ptes Stanley and Harry Loader, serving in France, while another brother Pte Leonard Loader is in training in England. Arthur formerly worked at Messrs. James France and Sons, Dewsbury as a weaver, while George was employed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at the cleaning sheds in Mirfield."

COUSINS MISSING.
FIRST DAY IN THE LINE.

Pte. George H. Loader, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Loader, 2, Fenton Street, Mirfield, is officially reported missing since May 3rd, the day on which he entered the trenches for the first time. His cousin, Pte. Arthur Loader, of the same regiment, son of Mr. W. H. Loader, Northgate, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, is also reported missing from the same date. Pte. George H. Loader is 20, and Pte. Arthur Loader, 22, and the latter has two brothers, Ptes. Stanley and Harry Loader, serving in France, while another brother, Pte. Leonard Loader, is in training in England. Arthur formerly worked for Messrs. James France and Sons, Dewsbury, as a weaver, while George was employed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at the cleaning sheds, Mirfield.



Pte. G. H. Loader, Duke of Wellington's, Mirfield (missing).

DEWSBURY & DISTRICT NEWS (SATURDAY JUNE 30 1917)

"MIRFIELD COUSINS DISAPPEAR ON THE SAME DAY Pte George Herbert Loader, son of Mr and Mrs John Loader, 2, Fenton Street, Mirfield, is officially reported missing as from May 3rd. , He was called up with the Duke of Wellington's on the outbreak of war but was detained in England for a considerable time on account of his age. He is now only 20. **It is believed May 3rd was the first day he had spent in the trenches.**

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He was formerly employed at the L and Y Railway Company's cleaning sheds Mirfield. Private Arthur Loader (22), a cousin of the above, and son of Mr William H. Loader, Northgate, Upper Hopton, of the same regiment, is also reported as missing on the same date. Before joining the Army six months ago he was employed by Messrs. James France and Sons, Dewsbury. Private Arthur Loader has two brothers Stanley and Harry serving in France, and a third Leonard is now in camp in the Midlands. "

DEWSBURY REPORTER (SATURDAY MARCH 16 1918)

"ONE OF FOUR SOLDIER BROTHERS KILLED - On Sunday, Mr William Henry Loader, L and Y Railway signalman, residing at Northgate, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, received an official document from the Record Office, York acquainting him with the fact that the Army Council had been regretfully constrained to concede that his son Pte Arthur Loader, West Riding Regiment, who has been missing since May 3rd last, is now presumed to be dead. The last communication Mr Loader received from his son was dated April 30th last, and it came to hand on May 3rd, the date upon which he was subsequently reported to be missing. Pte Loader, who was 22 years of age, was born at Hopton. He attended what is now the Lower Hopton Council School and the Upper

Hopton Primitive Methodist Sunday School, and before he joined the Army, in February 1916, he was a worshipper at the Hopton Congregational Church. In his early teens he went to work at Messrs James Walker and Sons mill as a warper, but for the last twelve months of his civil life he was employed by Messrs James France and Co. at the Wesley Place Mills, Dewsbury. About twelve months ago he went to France. He was one of four soldier brothers. Pte. Harry Loader and Pte. Stanley Loader are now in France, and Pte Leonard Loader is in the Training Reserve at South Shields."

"DEWSBURY & DISTRICT NEWS (SATURDAY MARCH 16 1918)

Private Arthur Loader, West Riding Regiment, missing since May 3rd last, is now presumed to be dead. Son of Mr William Henry Loader, L and Y Railway signalman, Northgate, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, he was 22 years of age and a native of Hopton. He was an old boy of Lower Hopton Council School and attended Upper Hopton Primitive Methodist Sunday School, and later was associated with Hopton Congregational Church. Before joining up he was employed by Messrs James France and Co. at Wesley Place Mills, Dewsbury. Two brothers Privates Harry and Stanley Loader are in France, and a third Pte Leonard Loader is in the Training Reserve at South Shields."

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Adding the following report on March 23 1918 :

"PRESUMED KILLED MIRFIELD BOY'S UNCERTAIN FATE

Mr and Mrs John Loader of 2, Fenton Street, Mirfield after a long period of anxious waiting have received the official intimation that their son Pte. George H. Loader, Duke of Wellington's Regiment is now presumed to have been killed, no further news of him having been received since May 3rd, when he was reported missing. On the day he entered the trenches for the first time."

The remains of Arthur and George have never been found or identified, although both are commemorated on the War Memorial in Ings Grove Park, Mirfield and on the Arras Memorial in France 'Remembered with honour', Arras along with over 35,000 other servicemen who died in similar circumstances in the vicinity of Arras.

However his name like theirs is commemorated on the Arras memorial. The citation in the book of remembrance simply says: LOADER, ARTHUR Private 235205 Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). Son of William Henry Loader of 18, North Gate, Upper Hopton, Yorks.

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Arthur Loader

Arthur's Medals



British War Medal



Victory Medal

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Arthur Loader

In Memory of
Private

Arthur Loader

235205, 2nd Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 May 1917 Age 21

Son of William Henry Loader, of 18, North Gate, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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Arthur Loader

Arras Memorial

The Arras Memorial commemorates 34,795 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died from the spring of 1916 until 7th August 1918, and who have no known grave. Most of the casualties commemorated here were killed during the Allied offensive during the Battles of Arras in April and May 1917 and during the German attack on the Allied Front from 21st March 1918.

Upper Hopton Parish Magazine June 1917 (note comments about Arthur)

