Fred Archer







Rank: - Private

Number: - 25140

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 7th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 11/06/1916 Age: 33 years

Cemetery: - Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 1.C.1

Batley News, 9 Sep 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Fred was born in Dewsbury on the 27th September 1883 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown on the 21st October 1883. He was the son of Smith and Hannah Archer (nee Whitworth) who both came from Dewsbury. His father's occupation was given as a cloth finisher.

In 1891 he was living at 6, Foundry Street, Dewsbury with his parents and siblings Edward 1873, George 1877, Robert 1879, Thomas 1881, Edith1885 and Mary Emma 1888. His father was employed as a rag extractor. Mary Emma born 1872 and Ellen born 1875 died in 1877.

They were still at the same address in 1901 but with the additions of Frank 1891. Smith was employed as a mule spinner and Fred was working at a coal mine as a hewer.

Smith died in the summer of 1901.

Prior to enlisting Fred worked as a warehouseman for Messrs. S. Stross and Sons, Scout Hill, Dewsbury. He lived in Wakefield Road, Dewsbury.

Service Details

Fred enlisted in Dewsbury in August 1915 and disembarked in France in February 1916. His Regiment was part of the 20th (Light) Division.

In 1916 they took part in: -
The Battle of Mount Sorrel, a local operation in which the Division recaptured the height with the Canadians. This took place in the Ypres Salient, Belgium from 2nd to 13th June 1916

To divert British resources from the build-up being observed on the Somme, the X111(Royal Wurttemburg) Corps and the 117th Infantry Division attacked an arc of high ground defended by the Canadian Corps. The German forces captured the heights at Mount Sorrel and Tor Top, before entrenching on the far slope of the ridge. Following a number of attacks and counterattacks, two divisions of the Canadian Corps, supported by the 20th Light Division and Second Army siege and howitzer battery groups, recaptured the majority of their former positions.

Fred was shot through the head and death was instantaneous on the 11th June.

His effects were left to his eldest brother, Edward.

Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.
He is remembered with Honour at Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Thanks to Peter Bennett of Dewsbury Sacrifices.