**Freddie Archer**





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 29964

**Regiment: -** King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion

**Killed in Action: -** 10th May 1917 aged 27 years

**Cemetery: -** Wancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France I.D.2

# "REMEMBRANCE"

Batley News, 26 May 1917 (photo)

**Family Details**

Freddie was born in Staincliffe on the 25th June 1888 the twin son of Albert Edward and Ann Archer nee Rothery and was baptised at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield on 2nd June 1889 along with his twin brother Willie.

In 1891 the family with older sibling Eliza 1879 was living at 11, Staincliffe Hall Road, Batley and Edward was employed as a woollen spinner and Ann as a blanket weaver. Sadly, Willie died in May 1891.

Freddie attended Staincliffe Church Day School and Staincliffe Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School.

The family was still at the same address a decade later. Eliza married Jonathan Heward in 1902 and Ann died in early June 1909. Freddie and his widowed father were living with Jonathan and Eliza at 10, Beaumont Place, Batley.

He was employed at Messrs. C. Robinson and Sons, rag merchants, Staincliffe as a teamer and warehouseman. Freddie was a former member Staincliffe Liberal Club and was engaged to Miss Ethel Hargreaves of Jacob Street, Woodwell, Batley.

**Service Details**

Fred enlisted at Batley in March 1916 and disembarked in France on the 5th October 1916.

From 1914 6th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry had come under the command of 43rd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division.

They had fought in 1916 on the Somme at the Battle of Delville Wood and the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. In 1917 they took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14th March -5th April), First Battle of the Scarpe (9th April-14th April) , Third Battle of the Scarpe (3rd -4th May)

The first news was received in a letter from a stretcher-bearer: -

"*It is my painful duty to have to inform you of the death of your boy Freddie who was killed on May 9th in the execution of his duty. His death was instantaneous.*

*I did the best I could but he was beyond my help. I saw to his belongings, which you will receive in due course from the Chaplain, who, I may state saw the lad was buried properly. He was always friendly and good natured and I can assure you he suffered no pain. Accept my deepest sympathy in your loss. "*

A Lieutenant also wrote: -

*"Please accept the sympathy of myself and every member of the Platoon in the death of your son. I was only in command of the platoon for a few days but had formed a very high estimate of your son for the way in which he carried out his duties. He was always popular with his comrades and his loss was greatly felt by them. He was killed instantly by a shell bursting near him, and he is buried in a cemetery for British soldiers close by."*

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe; Staincliffe C. of E. Junior School; Staincliffe Wesleyan Church; Staincliffe Liberal Club and Batley War Memorial.

