**Fred Beswick**





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 47499

**Regiment: -** Leicestershire Regiment 1/4th Battalion

**Died of wounds: -** 3rd October 1918 aged 18 years

**Cemetery: -** Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France V.C.9

# "MEMORIES CLING WITH MANY SILENT THOUGHTS"

**Batley News, 12 Oct 1918, 19 Oct 1918 (photo)**

## Family Details

Fred was born in Batley on 29th January 1899 the son of Runcorn born, James Beswick and his wife Clara Elizabeth nee Watson, who had married at Batley Parish Church on 21st July 1894. He was baptised at Broomhill Chapel on 16th March 1899.

In 1901 the family which comprised of James, Clara, Willie 1895, Fred and Ernest 1900 was living with Clara's mother at 35, Queen Street, Batley. Joseph who was born in 1897 died in March 1901.

Before 1911 the family had moved to live at 7, George's Terrace, Field Lane, Batley with the additions of Clara Annie 1903 and Nellie 1906. William was working as a delver in a stone quarry.

Fred attended Park Road Council School and before enlisting worked for Messrs. Wutow. He was actively associated with St. Luke's Church, Soothill, where he was a member of the choir, an altar server and a popular Sunday school teacher. He was also literature secretary for the Batley Independent Labour Party. The family had moved to live at 61, Queen Street, Batley.

## Service Details

Fred enlisted on 8th March 1917 and went to France at Easter 1918, 1st April. The 1/4th Battalion from May 1915 were attached to 138th Brigade, 46th (North Midland) Division.

In 1918 they fought at the Battle of the St Quentin canal, including the passage of the canal at Bellenglise and the Battle of the Beaurevoir Line on the Hindenburg Line.

On the 3rd October 1918 the Division was to attack on the Fonsomme Line, Ramicourt and Montbrehain, the 138th Brigade was in support. The 1/4th Leicesters was to take over the left front before Montbrehain with the Anzacs on the left.

A chaplain wrote to his parents: -

*"Everything possible was done to save his life. His battalion and division, which had performed such wonderful deeds during the week, were engaged in another struggle on the 3rd and our boy gave his life in a victorious and very sacred cause."*

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

He is remembered with Honour at St. Luke's Church, St. Paul's Church Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.




Researched by members of
Batley History Group