**Arthur Firth**





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 38027

**Regiment: -** East Yorkshire Regiment 2nd Battalion

**Killed in Action (Balkans): -** 26/05/1917 Age: 23 years

**Cemetery: -** Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece 111.E.25

# "A GOOD LIFE IS OFTEN TOO SHORT BUT A GOOD NAME ENDURETH FOR EVER"

Batley News, 9 Jun 1917, 16 Jun 1917 (photo)



## Family Details

Arthur was born in Heckmondwike in 1894 the son of Athan and Esther Helen Firth nee Hardy who had married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 31st January 1876. Clara was born in 1876 followed by Mary Elizabeth 1878, Jane 1880, Esther 1883, Alice 1885, Helen 1888, George 1891, Arthur, John 1898.

In 1901 Athan was a carpet weaver living with his family at 68. Church Street, Heckmondwike.

Esther Helen died in the 4th Qtr 1907. This would have been a very hard time for the family because in 1911 Athan was living in a two roomed home at 20, Back Lane, Heckmondwike with his daughter Jane and a housekeeper Ann Elizabeth Flynn. Clara had married and moved to Leeds, Esther had married and taken John to live with them to 19, Clerk Green, Batley, Arthur was living with his sister Mary Elizabeth and her family at 2, Cheapside Mill Yard, Batley,

On the 24th July 1915 Arthur married Gertrude Evelyn Wilson at Batley Parish Church. Before he enlisted, he worked for Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mills as a middle minder and was a popular playing member of the late Batley Albion Football Club. His wife went to live with her parents at 62, New Street, Batley later moving to Norfolk Street, Batley. Mavis was born in 1916 and went to Ontario, Canada in 1922 with her mother.

## Service Details

Arthur enlisted in June 1916 and went to the East in March 1917.

Around 15th May 1917 the 2nd Battalion took part in the capture of Ferdie and Essex Trenches (near Barakli Jum'a).

Arthur was killed in action on the 26th May 1917, his young brother, John, was in France with the Machine Gun Corps at the time of his death.

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

Arthur is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group