Frederick Whitwham



Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 8/7706

Regiment: - King's Royal Rifle Corps 9th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 13/12/1917 aged 21 years

Cemetery: - Oxford Road Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium V.E.11

"A CHERISHED MEMORY"

Family Details

Frederick was born in Batley in c. July 1896 the youngest son of Friend Frederick and Eliza Whitwham nee Tolson (Towlson). The couple had married at St. Paul's Church, Morley on 9th February 1874 when Friend gave his occupation as a miner.

In 1881 they were living at Gildersome Street with their children John Charles 1875, Annie Elizabeth 1877 and Angelina 1879.

Frank 1881 and Julia 1885 were born in Gildersome but in 1891 the family had moved to live at 31, Union Street, Batley. Friend Lewis 1892 and Edith 1905 who died aged 3 years in March 1908 were born in Batley.

Friend died in November 1897 in Leeds but buried at Batley Cemetery.

Earlsheaton born Eliza moved her family to live at Chickenley Lane before 1901 but moved to Myrtle Cottages, Kirkhamgate before 1911. The census shows the couple had 10 children born alive but only seven had survived childhood. Frederick was a driver in a coal mine.

Eliza died in September 1911.

Service Details

He went to France on the 11th March 1915.

In 1917 the 9th Battalion fought at: -
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line
The First Battle of the Scarpe
The Third Battle of the Scarpe
which were phases of the Arras Offensive

The Battle of Langemark
The First Battle of Passchendaele
The Second Battle of Passchendaele (26 October – 10 November)
which were phases of the Third Battles of Ypres.

Frederick was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Warwick Road School and Batley War Memorial Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group