



Eli Townend Archer

1893-1916

Eli was born in Ossett in 1893. His father was David Hanson Archer, a Pork Butcher and later a Cattle Dealer who was also an Ossett councillor born in 1867 and died in 1955. His mother was Emma (nee Townend) born in 1869 and died in 1959. They were married in 1892.

Their other children were; Mary Townend, born in 1900 and Jack Townend, born in 1902.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 9, Dale Street, Ossett and in 1911 at Runtlings Grange, Ossett. They were still living there in 1939.

Eli was a single man who was educated at Ossett Grammar School and Silcoates School in Wakefield. In 1911 he worked as a Rag Merchant and was a keen cricketer for Dewsbury and Savile Town,

He was gazetted at the Officer Training Corps at Leeds University in June 1915 before joining the army proper. He was attached to the 1st/4th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the rank of Second Lieutenant and was sent to the Western Front on 25th May 1916. He was one of four young officers who went out with a bombing party during the Battle of the Somme on the 23rd July 1916, but went missing. The other missing officers were Second-Lieutenant Allen J. Mountain, whose father, Mr. T.H. Mountain was a bank manager in Wakefield; Second Lieutenant J. Plews, son of the late clerk to the Wakefield city justices; and Second Lieutenant James C. Jubb of Batley.

A letter from his servant was subsequently received by his family, which stated that he had left the officer, who had been wounded, in a shell-hole out in "*No Man's Land*." A search party was sent out but failed to find him. A strong German patrol had been seen in the vicinity and it was hoped that they had taken him as a POW. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

It is most likely that he died in the Battle of Pozieres Ridge, a subsidiary attack of the Somme Offensive, and launched on 23rd July 1916. The Battle of Pozieres Ridge on the Albert-Bapaume road saw the Australians and British fight hard for an area that comprised a first-rate observation post over the surrounding countryside, as well as the additional benefit of offering an alternative approach to the rear of the Thiepval defences.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Eli is also commemorated on the Ossett War Memorial and on the Memorial Plaque in Ossett Grammar School and on the Memorial Tablet in Silcoates School, Wakefield and as *Eli T. Archer* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory Of
Second Lieutenant

ELI TOWNEND ARCHER

1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 23 July 1916 Age 23

Son of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Archer, of Runting Grange, Ossett, Yorks. Educated at Silcoates School, Wakefield. Gazetted
from Leeds University O.T.C. June, 1915.

Remembered with Honour

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

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COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
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COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

ARCHER E.T.