

Frederick (Fred) Satchwell 1896 – 1917

Fred was born in Dewsbury on 17th January 1896 and baptised at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 2nd December 1900. His mother was Elizabeth Satchwell, born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1900. In 1891 she is living as a servant at 10, Lower Road, Dewsbury.

Her other children were; Henry, born in 1888, Florence, born in 1891, Joseph William, born in 1893 and was killed in action on 4th November 1918 and Mary Ethel, born in 1898. No father is named on their birth records or baptismal records.

On the 1901 Census, the children lived with the family of their mother's sister Mary Jane (now Mrs Matthew Hughes) at 30, New Street, Westtown. On the 1911 Census; Florence, Joseph and Fred are living with another of their mother's sisters, Ellen (now Mrs Thomas Pitchforth) at 3, Clement Street, Halifax. Henry and Mary Ethel are still living with the Hughes family at 8, Belgrave Street, Dewsbury.

Fred was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Church. Prior to enlistment he worked for Hartley Brothers, Leather Curriers, Ravensthorpe and lived with his sister Florence at 7, Elmwood Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in August 1914 serving as Private 17115 Fred Satchwell in the 9th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 11th September 1915 and was wounded in the Battle of Loos later that month. He was invalided back to England returning to the Front at the beginning of 1916 and went through the whole of the Battle of the Somme for which he received a merit card. He particularly distinguished himself on 1st July 1916 and 20th September 1916. He was killed in action on 9th April 1917, the first day of the Battle of Arras, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commenced on the Arras Memorial. Fred was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

It was not until February 1918 that his death was confirmed in reports in the Dewsbury Reporter and Dewsbury District News.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Fred is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and as *Frederick Satchwell* in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.



