



Ernest Archer

1888 - 1916

Ernest was born in Dewsbury in 1888 and baptised on the 2nd September 1888 at St. Mary's Church, Woodkirk. His father was Ben Archer, a Millwright born in Dewsbury in 1839 in and died in 1928. His mother was Jane (née Stead) born in Birstall in 1855 and died in 1926. They were married on 11th September 1871 at All Saints Parish Church, Dewsbury.

On the 1911 Census they declare 14 children born to the marriage of which 6 had died. Their other children who could be traced were; Lizzie, born in 1872, Fanny, born in 1873, Stead, born in 1875, Harry, born in 1877 and died in 1879, Lucy, born in 1878, Nelly, born in 1880, Frank, born in 1883 and died in 1884, Edith, born in 1885, Herbert, born in 1890, Wright Williams, born in 1894 and died in 1894,

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family lived at 80, Upper Road, Batley Carr and in 1901 and 1911 at 38, Woodhill, Batley Carr.

Ernest worked as a cloth finisher at CWS Livingstone Mills in Batley Carr and was a member of Batley Carr Working Man's Club. He was married to Minnie Jardine (born in 1892 and died in 1973) on 24th July 1915 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr where he had been a regular attendee. They lived at 16, Town Street, Batley Carr and did not have any children. Minnie was remarried to George William Sykes (born in 1879 and died in 1940) on 27th December 1926 at Holy Trinity Church Batley Carr. She remarried again in 1947 to Charles William Gaunt (born in 1897 and died in 1976).

He enlisted in Dewsbury in July 1916 serving as Private 22040 in the 2nd Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 28th September 1916. He was taken prisoner and reported missing on 18th November and died of wounds on 18th December 1916 in the German Reserve Field Hospital at Oisy-Le-Verger, France, and was buried in the German Cemetery there. Official news of his death did not reach his widow until February 1917 in a letter from the Central Prisoner of War Committee of the Red Cross Society. In 1924 his remains were reinterred in Ontario Cemetery, Sains-les-Marquion, Pas-de-Calais, France. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sains-les-Marquion is a village in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, about 2 kilometres south of Marquion, which lies on the main Arras to Cambrai road. The cemetery was made at the end of September and the beginning of October 1918, after the capture of Sains-les-Marquion (on the 27th) by the Canadian Division. There are now over 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

Ernest is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

In Memory of
Private
Ernest Archer

33040, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 18 December 1916 Age 28

Son of Benjamin and Jane Archer, of 38, Wood Hill, Batley Carr; husband of Minnie Archer, of 16, Town St., Batley Carr, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Ontario Cemetery, Sains-Les-Marquion



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

