

Albert Edward Archer

Private, 9th Battalion Devonshire Regiment (Stretcher-bearers). Enlisted at Bridgend, March 3rd 1915. Served in France: battles of Ecoust, Croissilles, Bullecourt. Killed in action by shell fire at the battle of Bullecourt, May 7th, 1917, and buried at Bullecourt. Awarded 1914-15 Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



ALBERT ARCHER WAS born in Corsham in 1882 to Isaac and Mary (née Gingell) and was part of a large family: Isaac and Mary had ten children. Albert was christened in Neston on 5th March 1882 and in 1891, as a schoolboy, he was living in Chapel Knapp in Gastard with his parents and elder brother Jesse, who was a gardener. By 1901 they were living in Monks Lane, and both Albert (aged 19) and his father Isaac were labourers at the local stone quarry.

In 1902 Albert married Beatrice Ada Greenman, who came from Biddestone, and by 1908 they had four children, all registered as born in Corsham: Dorothy Violet, Douglas Eric, Ivor Dennis and Albert Edward. They then moved to the South Wales mining village of Pontycymer, where Albert was a coal miner hewer. They had another son, Stanley Harold, and by the time Albert enlisted, along with six other men from Pontycymer (they walked all the way to Bridgend), they had seven children. Albert was assigned to the 9th Service Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment and served in France from August 1915, in a Service Regiment providing direct frontline support as a stretcher-bearer.

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES



Albert Archer (wearing the SB armband) tending an injured soldier in his role as a stretcher-bearer.

He was killed in action on 6th May 1917 at Bullecourt while recovering bodies, after the 62nd division had broken through the Hindenburg Line in the lead-up to the Battle of Arras. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial.

His wife Beatrice was recorded as living at 5 Upper Adare Street, Pontycymer.

Albert's parents Isaac and Mary were still living in Monks Lane in Corsham at the time of the 1911 census. Isaac died in 1913, before the war started, and Mary died in 1918.