



"Preamble"

To the London Gazette Supplement dated 12.3.1917

(France)

His Majesty the King has been graciously
pleased to award the Military Medal for
bravery in the Field to the undermentioned
Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.

Included in the list of names is that of:-

8218 Pte F ARCHER

12th Bn R Fus



2 SEP 1947

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS
NORCROSS,
BLACKPOOL,
LANCS.

OFFICERS' BRANCH,
18, GREAT SMITH STREET,
LONDON S.W.1.

Sir,

The Minister of Pensions is commanded by His Majesty the King to forward to you the King's Badge for members of the Armed Forces, the Merchant Navy, the Home Guard and the Civil Defence Organisations who are disabled as a result of war service,

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H. Parker

Secretary.

Major F. Archer

167227



2nd August 1947

Sir,

Now that the time has come for your release from active military duty, I am commanded by the Army Council to express to you their thanks for the valuable services which you have rendered in the service of your country at a time of grave national emergency.

At the end of the emergency you will relinquish your commission, and at that time a notification will appear in the London Gazette (Supplement), granting you also the honorary rank of Major. Meanwhile, you have permission to use that rank with effect from the date of your release.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Lieut. B. B. Reed.

Major E. Archer, M.C., M.M.,
Royal Pioneer Corps.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Gift from
Mary R
and the
Women of the Empire
1914.

Longhills
Branston
Lincoln

22nd Dec 1914.

Mr. *Lusher*

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the inhabitants of Branston I have the pleasure of sending you herewith a parcel, which please accept with our warmest greetings.

We are proud of the response to the call to arms in our Village, and it is this feeling of pride that prompts us to send you some small gift this Xmas, and with it our hearty wishes for your welfare.

Yours truly

Emeline Smith of Longhills

TELEPHONE, INGOLDSBY 273.
STATION, GRANTHAM.

THE MANOR HOUSE,
SAPPERTON,
NEAR SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.

15th Oct 1975

Dear Frank

As we had received no answer from the Army Record Office about your war record I told the Regimental Secretary to write again, as a result of which we received the enclosed reply a few days ago. The first letter must have gone astray but I

think that this provides the information
you want.

What splendid citations they
are and how proud you and your
family must be on such a
magnificent war record of bravery.

I wish you had been young
enough to serve in my battalion
when I commanded the 2nd Lincoln
in the last war!!

yours very sincerely
Christopher Welby-Edward

Major Frank Archer M.C. & Bar., M.M.

Commissioned as a temporary second lieutenant with the 25th Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, on the 28th November 1917, promoted to a temporary lieutenant in the same battalion and regiment on the 28th May 1919, it appears however that he was seconded to the Labour Corp at sometime during this period, (as the war ended in November 1918, no regiment would require as many as twenty-five battalions, and when his battalion was demobilised he was transferred as a temporary attachment to the Labour Corp) he was demobilised in either Sept/October 1919, during the war he won two Military Cross'es and one Military Medal.

With the outbreak of the Second War he was granted a Regular Army Emergency Commission as a lieutenant on the 30th January 1941, he was promoted war/substantive captain 24th October 1943, and a temporary/major on the 27th June 1945, a rank he appears to have held till he was demobilised in December 1946, all his service during the Second War was with the Pioneer Corp, which is the successor to the old Labour Corp.

Commissions

Temp/2nd Lieutenant	28 November	1917
Temp/Lieutenant	28 May	1919
Lieutenant	30 January	1941
M/Sub/Captain	24 October	1943
Temp/Major	27 June	1945

Honours and Awards

Military Medal

Fourth Supplement to the London Gazette of Friday 9th March 1917, published, Monday 12th March 1917 on Page 2,432.

(under the heading)

'His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the field to the undermentioned non-commissioned officers and men' (and among a large number of names is :-)

"8218 Private F. Archer R. Fus." (Royal Fusiliers)

Continued over:.....

Continued:.....

Military Cross

Supplement to the London Gazette of Friday
11th January 1919, on Page 604.

(under the heading)

'Awarded the Military Cross'

"Temp/2nd Lieut: Frank Archer M.M. 25th Battalion
North'd (Northumberland) Fusiliers, attached 2nd
Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment."

'When in command of a platoon during an advance his
company was held up by intense machine-gun fire. He
worked his platoon round skilfully, to a flank, in
spite of heavy casualties, thus materially assisting
the advance to be continued. He showed complete
disregard of danger, and his example and conspicuous
courage imbued his men with confidence which ensured
success.'

2nd Military Cross

Supplement to the London Gazette of Friday the 31st
January 1919, published, Saturday 1st February 1919
on Page 1,619.

(under the heading)

'Awarded a bar to the Military Cross'

"Temp/2nd Lieut: Frank Archer M.C., M.M., 25th Batt:.,
North'd Fus., attached 2nd Batt: Lincolnshire Reg."

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on
3th October near Valincourt. When the two leading
companies were held up by fire from the right flank
he led forward two Lewis-gun teams, together with a
captured gun, and drove the enemy down a road, at the
end of which he captured two field guns and forty
four prisoners. His determination and drive had an
inspiring effect on all ranks.'

"Military Cross, gazetted 11 January 1919"

Sources of Reference

Guildhall Library, Guildhall

National Army Museum, Chelsea

Public Records Office, New



Awarded: Military Cross
(London Gazette (Supplement) dated 11 January 1919)
Bar to Military Cross
(London Gazette (Supplement) dated 1 February 1919)
Military Medal
(London Gazette (Supplement) dated 12 March 1917)
1914/15 Star, British War and Victory Medals,
Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/45

Citations for awards of decorations are as follows:

Military Cross

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the following award to the undermentioned, in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field:

T./2nd Lt. Frank Archer, M.M., 25th Bn, North'd Fus., attd 2nd Bn., Linc. R. When in command of a platoon during an advance his company was held up by intense machine-gun fire. He worked his platoon round skilfully to a flank, in spite of heavy casualties, thus materially assisting the advance to be continued. He showed complete disregard of danger, and his example and conspicuous courage imbued his men with confidence which ensured success.

Bar to Military Cross

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the following award to the undermentioned in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field:

T./2nd Lt. Frank Archer, M.C., M.M. 25th Bn., North'd Fus., attd. 2nd Bn., Linc. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 8th October near Walincourt. When the two leading companies were held up by fire from the right flank he led forward two Lewis-gun teams, together with a captured gun, and drove the enemy down a road, at the end of which he captured two field guns and forty-four prisoners. His determination and drive had an in-spiriting effect on all ranks.

Military Medal

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field to the undermentioned.

8218 Private F Archer, Royal Fusiliers.

Yours faithfully


J W STEVENS

AN UNSUNG VILLAGE HERO

Frank Archer was born at Croxton Grange in 1896 and moved to the village of Branston when he was three years old when his father was appointed manager of the Co-op Farms. He attended the village C of E school and on leaving school at the age of fourteen went to work as an apprentice at Robeys in the boiler marking department.

He enlisted in August 1914 in the R.A.M.C. (Territorial Army) and served at 4th Royal Northern Hospital, Wragby Road. In July 1915 he transferred to the Royal Fusiliers and was soon in France attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment.

In January 1917, he together with 79 men and four officers set out across No Man's Land in heavy snow to attack the German lines. They had been issued with white overalls and tin hats were painted white, they also carried short ladders as they knew that the German defences were deep. Frank remarked at the time that they looked like a large gang of painters and decorators!

On reaching the German lines they were halted for a while by heavy shell fire from the British lines, no fire was coming from the enemy as they were taking cover in their dugouts. The Tommies jumped into the trenches and threw Mills bombs into the dugouts to flush the German soldiers out.

Unknown to Frank a bugle had sounded for retreat and he found himself with an officer alone in the German lines. The officer realising this beat a hasty retreat and Frank was about to follow when he spotted an enemy face looking out of a dugout. He ordered the terrified German soldier and four of his mates out then threw a grenade into the trench for luck before setting out for his own lines under heavy German artillery fire.

They were met by a British officer menacing them with a revolver thinking it was a counter attack coming in. He asked Frank if he could get the prisoners to H.Q., Frank remarked that they had managed alright so far! One of the prisoners was wounded en route to Brigade H.Q.

London Gazette, March 9, 1917

"His Majesty has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal to 8218 Pte. Frank Archer (R. Fusiliers)".

In November 1917 Frank was given a temporary commission of 2nd Lieutenant in the field.

London Gazette, January 11, 1919

Temporary 2nd Lieutenant Frank Archer M.M. attached to 25th Battalion Lincolnshire Regt.

"When in command of a platoon during an advance on September 7, 1918, his company was held up by intense machine gun fire. He worked his platoon round skilfully to a flank in spite of heavy casualties thus materially assisting the advance to be continued. He showed complete disregard for danger and his example and conspicuous courage imbued his men with confidence which ensured success".

Military Cross awarded January 11, 1919

Three weeks later Frank received a further Military Cross.

London Gazette January 31, 1919

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 8 October near Wallincourt. When the two leading companies were held up by fire from the right flank he led forward two Lewis gun teams

together with a captured enemy gun and drove the enemy down the road, at the end of which he captured two field guns and 44 prisoners. His determination and drive had an inspiring effect on all ranks".

After the war Frank obtained a situation with Alfa-Laval, demonstrating and installing farming machinery. Eventually the job took him to Ireland in the early thirties. He married Dorothy Wilkinson of Canterbury, Kent in 1934 at St Annes Cathedral, Belfast, and before long they had two daughters, the eldest, Mary was to eventually become librarian at Branston village library.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Archer family returned to England, Frank rejoined the army as a Lieutenant and was soon promoted to Captain in the Pioneer Corps, some of his time was served in Egypt. He was demobilised at the end of the war with the rank of Major.

On return to civvy street he resumed his job with Alfa-Laval, installing milking machinery in Scotland and he remained there until his retirement in 1959.

His retirement was very full as he took an active part in village life serving on the Parish Council for a number of years, part of the time as Chairman. He was also a church warden and lay reader. He played cribbage and dominoes at the Home Guard Club and was also a keen and active member of the Bowls Club and British Legion.

He died at his home in Church Close in 1978 at the good age of 82. His name is commemorated in Archer Road on Hillside Estate.

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