



## **Ernest Ledgard**

### **1880 – 1917**

Ernest was born in Mirfield in 1880. His father was Frank Ledgard, a Colliery Engine Manager, born in 1840 and died in 1902. His mother was Mary (nee Gill) born in Mirfield in 1843 and died in 1904. They were married on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1862 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield.

Their other children were; Ada Ann, born in 1862, Rhoda Ann, born in 1863, Martha Ann, born in 1864, Louisa, born in 1869, Alfred, born in 1872, Clara, born in 1875, Charles Hubert, born in 1878, William, born in 1883 and Harold, born in 1885.

On the 1891 Census they lived at 24, Northorpe, Mirfield and in 1901 at Craven Street, Ravensthorpe.

Ernest was married to Gertrude Ann Law (born in Cleckheaton in 1880 and died in 1950) on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1910 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe; on the 1911 Census they were living at 16, Thornville Place, Westtown, Dewsbury and later at 281, Ravenswharfe Hill, Dewsbury. They had a daughter, Florence Mary born in 1916. He had initially worked for Mr. Ben Turner, Mineral Water manufacturer in Lee Street, Ravensthorpe then for 17 years he was Wharf Manager for Mr. Richard Thornton, Coal Merchant and then as manager of the coal depot at the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway for Messrs James Wilby Ltd. He was a member of Ravensthorpe Liberal Club.

He enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1917 serving as Private 88398 in the 68<sup>th</sup> Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). He underwent initial training at Blyth, Northumberland then for machine gun training at Clipstone Camp, Nottinghamshire. He was posted to the Western Front on 6<sup>th</sup> May and was killed in action on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1917 on the Menin Road during the Battle of Passchendaele. His Company were in the Dickebusch area near Ypres, the attack was from the eastern end of Sanctuary Wood. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Divisional War Diary gives casualty figures of one officer and 9 other ranks killed, one of these men was Ernest Ledgard, who had been hit by a shell.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

Ernest is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

## Ernest Ledgard

88398, 68th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 20 September 1917 Age 37

Son of the late Frank and Mary Ledgard, of Craven St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury; husband of Gertrude Ann Ledgard, of 281, Ravenswharfe Hill, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

