



## **Frederick Thomas Leathard**

### **1895 - 1917**

Frederick was born in Wylam, Northumberland in 1895. His father was Thomas Leathard, who owned a butcher's business born in Prudhoe, Northumberland in 1870 and died in 1937. His mother was Margaret (nee Yelder) born in Ryton Woodside, County Durham in 1860 and died in 1931. They were married in 1884.

Their other children were; William John, born in 1885, Alfred, born in 1887, Amy Mary Yelder, born in 1889, Herbert Richard, born in 1891, Clara Jane, born in 1893, Matthew Arnold Surtees, born in 1898, Edna Margaret, born in 1900 and Doris Alexandra, born in 1902. All the brothers served in World War 1.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Wormald House, Wylam, Northumberland and later at Matfen near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Frederick was a single man who had a clerical career. On the 1911 Census he was a civil service boy clerk living at 385, Edgware Road, Paddington, London and shortly afterwards he moved to become a clerk under Mr. Sadler dealing with income tax in Corporation Street, Dewsbury. He was attached to the Centenary Methodist Wesleyan Church where he sang in the choir and attended the Sunday school. He moved to Newcastle-on-Tyne before becoming a clerk in Barclays Bank at Berwick-on-Tweed.

He enlisted in Berwick-on-Tweed into the Royal Horse Artillery later serving as Driver 109178 in "A" Battery 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and was on the Western Front for 18 months before he was killed in action on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele and was buried in the field along with four fellow RFA companions. In February 1920 he was reburied in New Irish Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Frederick was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

New Irish Farm Cemetery is located to the north-east of the town of Ieper (Ypres). It was first used from August to November 1917 and was named after a nearby farm, known to the troops as 'Irish Farm' (originally there was an Irish Farm Cemetery immediately South of the Farm. New Irish Farm Cemetery is about 300 metres north of the Farm at a crossing once known as Hammond's Corner). It was used again in April and May 1918 and at the Armistice it contained just 73 burials but was then greatly enlarged when more than 4,500 graves were brought in from the battlefields north-east of Ypres (now Ieper) and from smaller cemeteries. There are now 4,715 commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 3,267 of the burials are unidentified.

Frederick 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 on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill (his surname is spelt *Lethard*) and on the Plaque Gleemen Memorial in St. John's Wesleyan Methodist Church in Prudhoe, Northumberland. He is also commemorated on the Barclays Bank and United Counties Bank memorials and books of remembrance. After WW1 Barclays erected memorial panels at Head Office at 54, Lombard Street, London. As well as the fallen staff of Barclays Bank, the memorial also included men from United Counties Bank, which had been acquired by Barclays in 1916.

In Memory of

Driver

**F T Leathard**

109178, "A" Bty. 58th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 26 August 1917 Age 22

Son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Leathard, of Matfen, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Remembered with Honour

**New Irish Farm Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.