



## **Wilson Barrett**

### **1893 - 1917**

Wilson was born in Dewsbury on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1893. His father was Joseph Edward Barrett, a Corporation Lamplighter born in Dewsbury in 1861 and died in 1932. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Smith) born in Wakefield in 1860 and died in 1923. They were married in Dewsbury in 1880.

Their other children were; Florrie, born in 1880 and died in 1880, Edith, born in 1881, Milly (Amelia) born in 1883, Benjamin, born in 1886, Ernest, born in 1887 and died in 1887 and Wilfred, born in 1891 and died in 1892.

On the Census Records for 1891, 1901 and 1911 the family lived at 22, South Elmwood Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.

Wilson was a single man who was educated at Carlton Junior School and later worked as a clerk at Messrs Waddington and Ledger's paper bag works. He was a teacher in the Centenary Wesleyan Sunday School, a member of Messrs Turner and Dearnley's Society Class at Centenary, and a Lieutenant in the Boys' Brigade.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1916 into the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry serving as Private 302715. He was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1917 at Polygon Wood near Ypres. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Wilson was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Two very moving reports appeared in the Dewsbury Reporter, the first on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1917 was a letter from Wilson describing the scenes and telling of a miraculous escape he had had and then two weeks later on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1917 the same newspaper was reporting his death.

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.

Wilson is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

## Wilson Barrett

302715, 12th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 20 October 1917 Age 22

Son of Joseph Edward and Elizabeth Barrett, of 22, South Elmwood St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

