



## Archibald Adamson

1888 - 1917

60 Statham Street



We only know that Archie lived in this area because one of his descendants has contacted us hoping for more information about him. Because he lived at Statham Street for such a short time his name does not appear in any of the official local records.

Archie originally came from Cardross in Dumbartonshire and moved here at an unknown date to work for the Midland Railway as a Clerk. Born in 1888, he was one of eleven children. His father was a builder. Archie's younger brother, Thomas, also moved to Derby to work for the railway and here they befriended Alfred Shepherd, also a clerk with the Midland Railway.

Brother Thomas signed up with the Army near the start of the war and was posted with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders to Northern France in February 1915. He was killed in action in May 1915, aged 24.

Archibald enlisted in November 1915 and, shortly before he was called up in March 1916, he married Beatrice Mills, a school teacher at Ashbourne Road School, who lived at 60 Statham Street with her mother. They married on

26 February 1916 and both are listed as resident at 60 Statham Street. We don't know how the couple met and it may have been that Archie was lodging with them or it was more convenient to give Beatrice's address as his own.

Initially Archie's posting was in this country, or possibly in Ireland, with the North Midland Howitzer Brigade (part of the Royal Field Artillery), but in July 1916 he was transferred to a brigade in the Royal Field Artillery and posted to Northern France.

The RFA were responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers used during bombardments and were deployed near the front line. Horses were used to manoeuvre the guns into position.



© IWM (Q 1213). Hauling an 18-pounder gun of the Royal Field Artillery into a new position near Delville Wood, 15th September 1916. Battle of the Somme.



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## Archibald Adamson continued

We don't know exactly where he served but during his time in France and Flanders some of the bloodiest battles of the war were fought. Archie would have arrived in France at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme (July to November 1916). He may have been involved in the spring offensive at the Battle of Arras in April and May 1917. Sadly Archie was killed on 30 July 1917 the day before the Battle of Pilckem Ridge which marked the start of the Third Battle of Ypres. He is remembered at the Menin Gate memorial at Ypres.



The brothers are remembered on the war memorial in their home town of Cardross (above and right). (Photographs kindly supplied by a family member). Archie's name also appears on the Midland Railway war memorial on Station Approach in Derby.

The news for Beatrice must have been devastating – they had been married for just 17 months and probably spent very little time together - just the short periods of leave granted to soldiers. Family legend has it that the Adamson family never spoke to Beatrice after she remarried in 1923 as they felt she had betrayed Archie's memory. She married Bernard Harvey, a plumber, who lived at 40 Bromley Street .



Archie and Harry's friend Alfred Shepherd kept in touch with the Adamson family and went on to marry Agnes, who was the youngest daughter, in 1920.

Unfortunately all the Adamson family photographs that might have included Archie and Thomas were destroyed some years ago but hopefully some descendants of Beatrice Mills may contact us in time.