



## **Bruce Metcalfe**

### **1889 – 1917**

Bruce was born in Dewsbury in 1889. His father was Robert Metcalfe, a Tea Dealer and Grocer born in Hawes, Yorkshire in 1850 and died in 1897. His mother was Kate (nee Robinson) born in Brighouse in 1854 and died in 1921. They were married on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1877 at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Warren, born in 1879 and died of sickness in York Military Hospital on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1919, Albert, born in 1881, Robert, born in 1883 and served in World War 1, Kate, born in 1885 and Phoebe, born in 1887.

On the 1881 Census they lived at Halifax Road, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 1, Stonefield Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 9, Stonefield Street.

On the 1911 Census Kate Metcalfe is recorded as a widow and living at 11, Hope Street, Dewsbury with Warren, Albert and Phoebe, her brother Tom Robinson and a boarder, George Hewitt. She later moved to 19, Oxford Road, Dewsbury.

Bruce was a single man who was educated at the Carlton Road Council School and went to St. Mark's Church and Sunday school. He worked as a Porter on the railways. On 1911 census, he was living as a Boarder at 28, Suffield Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool with Mr and Mrs Allen Schofield who was born in Mirfield and was also a Railway Porter. His obituary in the Dewsbury Reporter on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1917 stated that he had worked as an electrical engineer for the Belfast City Tramways Company.

He enlisted in June 1915 into the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 204007 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was sent to the Western Front in December 1916. He suffered gas poisoning on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1917 when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. He died in the 16<sup>th</sup> Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport on the French coast on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and was buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France. Bruce was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Sadly, his medals were returned as none of his family claimed them.

Le Treport is a small seaport 25 kilometres north-east of Dieppe. The Cemetery is 1.5 kilometres south of the town. During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals (the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian, 47<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> USA General Hospitals arrived later, but all of the hospitals had closed by March 1919. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

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

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal  
**B Metcalfe**

204007, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 26 July 1917 Age 28

Son of Robert and Kate Metcalfe, of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
**Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

