



David Rochford

1882 – 1917

David was born at 1, Watergate, Huddersfield on 21st July 1882. His father was John Rochford, a Bricklayer's Labourer born in Knockroe, County Mayo, Ireland around 1846 and died in 1918. His mother was Mary (nee McNulty) born in Ireland around 1851 and died in 1894.

Their other children were; James, born in Ireland around 1875, Maria, born in Huddersfield in 1877, Sarah Ann, born in Huddersfield in 1884 and Margaret (Maggie), born in Huddersfield in 1887.

On the 1881 Census they lived at 1, Watergate, Huddersfield, in 1891 at 16, High Street, Leeds, in 1901 at 10, Garden Street, Leeds and in 1911 at 5, Spinner Street, Leeds.

David had lived in Leeds for many years and attended St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mount Street, Leeds. He was married to Ann Elizabeth Burns (born in 1879) at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown, Dewsbury on 3rd June 1916. They lived at 39, Back Victoria Road, Springfield, Dewsbury. David had worked as a Coal Miner, but when he married, he was already serving in the forces. Ann already had two children; Willie Burns, born in 1902 and James Burns, born in 1908. She was remarried in 1919 to Patrick O'Neill.

He enlisted on 15th November 1914 serving as Private 3805 in the 4th Reserve Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 15th June 1916 as Private 201419 in the 1st/4th Battalion. He received shrapnel wounds in his back and suffered gas poisoning when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas on the Belgian coast around Nieuport, Flanders on 24th July 1917. He died in the 16th Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport on the French coast on 27th July 1917 and was buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France. David was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

According to the report of his death in the *Batley News* and *Dewsbury Reporter* on 4th August 1917, David's wife, Ann, was invited to visit her husband in France, but she arrived at the hospital in Le Treport an hour too late to see her husband buried. Ann recounted her journey and stay in France: she had been taken in a car from Boulogne to Le Treport; she stayed in the YMCA hostel, where she could hear the firing from the frontline, only about 45 miles away; and she met an Irish priest, Father O'Sullivan, who took her to where David had been buried. Ann described the graves as being very beautiful and covered with flowers. He was the brother-in-law of Serjeant John Willie Ormsby, who was awarded the Victoria Cross and Military Medal.

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 3rd, 16th and 2nd Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7th Canadian, 47th and 16th 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.

David 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

Private

D Rochford

201419, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

