



## Leonard Calvert 1891-1918

Leonard was born in Howden Clough near Birstall on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1891 and baptised on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1891 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall. His father was George Henry Calvert, a Loom Tuner born in Adwalton, Leeds in 1864 and died in 1926. His mother was Annie (nee Oldroyd) born in Birstall in 1866 and died in 1956. They were married at on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1890 at St. Peter's Church.

Their other children were; John, born in Adwalton in 1889 and served in World War 1 and Ida, born in Howden Clough in 1892.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Leeds Road, Howden Clough, in 1901 at 13, Clarence Terrace, Thornhill Lees, in 1911 at 12, Calder Road, Ravensthorpe and later at Warwick Road, Batley Carr, and then 7, Albion Street, Heckmondwike.

Leonard was a single man and worked as a Loom Tuner at Bright's Mill, Batley.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 242169 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with a previous Service Number 5271. After arriving on the Western Front around March 1917 he was put straight into the trenches and after four days he was stricken with Rheumatism and Trench Feet which affected him so severely that he had to return home for a year and did not return to the front until Easter 1918. He was killed in action a month later in Belgian Flanders on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Leonard was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He was engaged to a Miss Laycock of Eastfield Road, Northorpe, Dewsbury and it was she who received a letter from one of his fellow soldiers, Private G. Metcalfe who wrote; *"I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of Private Leonard Calvert. He was left out of the line to stay with the transport, where he had the misfortune to be killed. I saw him killed and he suffered no pain because death was instantaneous. I assisted to bury him and I took possession of his pocket wallet from which I got your address and also a letter you had sent to him. I will get his personal belongings and send them to his home as soon as I can."*

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.

Leonard 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

## Leonard Calvert

242169, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 29 April 1918 Age 26

Son of George Henry and Annie Calvert, of 7, Albion St., Heckmondwike, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

