



Lionel Rayner 1889 – 1917

Lionel was born in Attercliffe, Sheffield on 1st April 1889. His father was Joseph Rayner, a Chemical Rectifier born in Attercliffe in 1871 and died in 1936. His mother was Jane Elizabeth (nee Hodgson) born in North Ferriby near Hull in 1867 and died in 1961. They were married in Sheffield in 1889.

Their other children were; Wilfred, born in 1890 and was killed in action 30th November 1915, Daisy, born in 1892 and died in 1901, Joseph, born in 1894 and died in 1899, Olive, born in 1897 and died in 1899, Percy, born in 1899, Charles, born in 1901, John, born in 1906, Phyllis, born in 1908 and Frank, born in 1911.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 12, Washford Road, Attercliffe, in 1901 at 45, Copster Road, Darnall, Sheffield, in 1911 at 3, Blenheim Place, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury and later at 49, Back Whitely Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Lionel worked as a Carriage Cleaner with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. He converted to Roman Catholicism in 1912 and attended Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church where he was married in 1913 to Mary Byrne (born in 1890). They had a daughter, Mary Olive, born 12th November 1913. They lived at 4, Cross Bank Street and later at 69, Whitley Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

He had served for eight years with the local Territorials and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915 serving as Private 200075 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Whilst at the front he served as a Dispatch Rider and narrowly missed injury when a shell destroyed the roof of a building he was sitting in. He was severely wounded by shrapnel in the left shoulder and right leg on 5th August 1915 and was returned to a hospital in Aldershot before being transferred to a convalescent home in Hertfordshire. He wrote to his family from there: "*My troubles are not over yet. I have a pain in my knee, and it hurts badly. I cannot help thinking about the six months past and about those still out.*" He suffered gas poisoning on 22nd July 1917 when the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. He died in the 16th Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport on the French coast on 25th July 1917 and was buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France. Lionel was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory 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.

Lionel is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Lionel Raynor* on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

L Rayner

200075, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 25 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

