



## **Robert Arnold Sconce**

### **1890 -1916**

Robert, known to his family as *Robbie* was born in Dewsbury on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1890. His father was John Sconce, a Rag Salesman born in Wardington. Oxfordshire in 1854 and died in 1901. His mother was Elizabeth (née Hepworth) born in Heckmondwike in 1853 and died in 1926. They were married in 1874.

Their other children were; Mary Alice, born in 1875, Emily, born in 1877, Edith, born in 1879, Ethel, born in 1882 and Nelly, born in 1883 and John Arthur, born in 1886 and served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 8, Victoria Crescent, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Northfield Road, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 10, Victoria Crescent, Dewsbury and later at 9, St. Mark's Terrace, Birkdale Road, Dewsbury.

Robert was a single man who was educated at Staincliffe Church School and attended the Springfield Congregational Church, Dewsbury. He worked as a Printer at Mr. Isherwood's Print Works in Bond Street, Dewsbury; in 1909 he emigrated to Canada departing from Liverpool on the ship 'Dominion' bound for Quebec. On arriving in Canada he worked in farming and then moved West into the Lumber (Timber) Industry in British Columbia.

He attested into the Canadian Expeditionary Force on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1915 serving as Private 464365 in the 54<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment). His Regiment landed in England in April 1916 and after training were sent to the Western Front in August. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Robert was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the Canadian Silver Cross (Mothers Medal).

His obituary in the Dewsbury District News on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1916 reported that he had met up with his brother John in France, having not seen each other for 10 years. John was informed of his brother's death by some of Robert's Canadian chums and it was he who conveyed the sad news to his mother. The article went on to report that John had managed to visit Robert's grave which must have been lost or destroyed in later battles.

The Vimy Memorial overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge. Located north of Arras in France, the Vimy Memorial is Canada's largest overseas National Memorial. It commemorates more than 11,000 men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force killed during the First World War in France and who have no known grave

Robert is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury and on the Canadian Roll of Honour on Parliament Hill, Ottawa.

In Memory of

Private

**Robert Sconce**

464365, 54th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 23 October 1916

Son of the late John and Elizabeth Sconce.

Remembered with Honour

**Vimy Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

