# Bruce Landers





**Rank: -** Private

**Number:** - PLY/146(S)

**Regiment: -** Royal Marine Light Infantry  2nd R.M. Bn. R.N. Div.

**Missing, presumed Killed in Action: -** 28/04/1917 Age: 23 years

**Memorial: -** Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Bay 1

Batley News, 26 Jan 1918 (photo). Batley Reporter, 9 mar 1917

## Family Details

Bruce was born in Batley on the 3rd February 1894 the son of Ruth Landers and was baptised at Christ Church, Staincliffe on Wednesday 21st March 1894 on the same day as his uncle Samuel Landers born July 1879 when his mother gave her address as Healey, Batley. On the 1st June 1895 Ruth married Frank Pitt at Batley Parish Church. Gertrude Mary was born in Batley in 1896 followed by Richard Edward 1897 in Normanton and Frank 1899 in Hull where they were living when the census was taken in 1901. Albert followed in 1901, Ruth Eveline 1903 and Annie 1905 all in Hull. His mother died in Hull on the 13th January 1908.

Ruth was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Mary (nee Holmes) Landers. She was born in 1874 in Baraugh, Barnsley as were her siblings, Tom 1881-1892, John 1885 and Annie 1887 before they moved to Batley and the birth of Edward in 1890. Thomas was a coal miner. It would appear that when Ruth married he was left with his grandparents and brought up as their son.

I n 1911 Bruce was living with his (grand) parents Thomas and Mary Landers an aunt and uncle and Annie Pitts aged 5 years at 13, Hume Street, Batley. Bruce was employed as a scale picker. Thomas died in 1913.

Bruce was connected with Hanover Street Congregational Church and Sunday Schools, but attended Staincliffe Church Day Schools. He worked for Messrs. J. & J. Saxton's, oil extractors, Batley but before enlisting worked at A.J. Riley's, boiler makers, Batley. He was well known in the district and a member of the Wilton Lodge of Oddfellows.

## Service Details

Bruce joined the Forces at Dewsbury on 8th September 1914 and took part in the Dardanelles campaign, leaving England on 6th February 1915 but was invalided home due to dysentery on the 20th August 1915.

He was drafted for the British Expeditionary Force and joined the 2nd Royal Marines Battalion "C" Company 9th Platoon on the 25t September 1916 and they went to France on the 4th December 1916.

Mary Landers received notice from the Record Office that Bruce had been wounded on February 19th but the nature of the wound was not stated and a letter written by a nurse later gave no further explanation.

His injuries must not have been serious because he rejoined his unit and he was reported missing, killed in action on the 28th April 1917.

His elder brother, John of the Collingwood Battalion was one of a party of men who retreated into Holland at the fall of Antwerp and was interned in Holland.

He wished his sister Annie, who had married Sydney Ross and lived at 13, Hume Street, Batley to be notified if he was killed.

Bruce is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group