

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



CHAPLAIN 4TH CLASS

The REV. J. K. BRUCE

AUSTRALIAN ARMY CHAPLAINS DEPARTMENT

9TH FEBRUARY, 1918

The Rev. John Kemp BRUCE

John Kemp Bruce was born at Glasgow, Scotland on 19th December, 1853 to parents John Kemp Bruce & Agnes (nee Sinclair).

The 1861 Scotland Census recorded John Kemp Bruce as a 7 year old Scholar living with his family at Alma Place, Eastwood, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as John Kemp Bruce (Examining Officer H. M. Customs, aged 40, born Cardross, Dunbartonshire, Scotland) & Agnes Bruce (Examining Wife, aged 29, born Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland). Also listed were John Kemp Bruce (junior)'s 2 younger sisters – Helen St Clair Bruce (Scholar, aged 5, born Eastwood, Renfrewshire, Scotland) & Eliza Kemp Bruce (aged 3, born Eastwood, Renfrewshire, Scotland). Others listed under the Household – Helen Sinclair (Sister-in-law of John Kemp Bruce, aged 34), Eliza Buchanan Frame (Governess, aged 21), Isabella Frame (aged 19), William Risk (aged 3) & Elizabeth Hart (Domestic Servant, aged 18).

The 1871 Scotland Census recorded John K. Bruce as a 17 year old Art Student, living with his family at Westbank Terrace, 5 Govan, Partick, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as John K. Bruce (H.M. Customs Officer, aged 49) & Agnes Bruce (aged 39).). Also listed were John Kemp Bruce (junior)'s 2 younger sisters – Helen S. Bruce (Scholar, aged 15) & Eliza K. Bruce (Scholar, aged 13). Others listed under the Household – Helen Sinclair (Sister-in-law of John Kemp Bruce, aged 44), Agnes R. Sinclair (Niece of John Kemp Bruce, aged 5) & Mary Ross (General Servant, aged 22).

Rev. John Kemp Bruce was ordained to Peterhead United Presbyterian Church, Peterhead, Scotland on 15th January, 1880.

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded John K. Bruce as a 27 year old, unmarried, Minister of Peter Head U P Church – listed as a Visitor at York Place, 15 St Andrew, Midlothian, Scotland. The Head of the House was listed as Margaret Whitson (Annuitant, widow, aged 54). Margaret Whitson's 3 daughter & 2 sons were also listed – Margaret J. Whitson (Scholar, aged 22), Eliza R. H. Whitson (Scholar, aged 20), Euphemia G. Whitson (Scholar, aged 19), William Whitson (Scholar, aged 17) & Patrick A. Whitson (Scholar, age 14). Others listed under the Household – Agnes Campbell (Serving Maid, aged 40), Janet Ramage (Domestic Cook, aged 21) & Elizabeth Campbell (Domestic House maid, aged 16).

Rev. John Kemp Bruce married Margaret Jane Whitson, on 30th June, 1881.

Newspaper notice – Dundee Advertiser, Scotland – 5 July, 1881

MARRIAGES

At 15 York Place, Edinburgh, on the 30th ult., by the Rev. Wm. Bruce, D.D., Infirmary Street U.P. Church, assisted by the Rev. Armstrong Black, Palmerston Place U. P. Church, the Rev. JOHN KEMP BRUCE, U.P. Church, Peterhead, to MARGARET JANE, eldest daughter of the late JAMES WHITSON, Esq. of Isla Park and Mudhall, Perthshire.

John Kemp Bruce, son of Margaret & the Rev. John Kemp Bruce, was born on 5th July, 1882 at United Presbyterian Manse, Peterhead, Scotland.

James Whitson Kemp Bruce, son of Margaret & the Rev. John Kemp Bruce, was born on 28th October, 1883 at United Presbyterian Manse, Peterhead, Scotland.

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded John Kemp Bruce as a 37 year old, married, Minister of PHDUP Church, lodging at Panama Villa, York Street, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The other occupants of the house were – Mary Darg (Head of House, Widow, aged 60) & her daughter Isabella Darg (aged 23).

Reverend J. K. Bruce (aged 37), Mrs J. K. Bruce (aged 34) & Master Bruce (aged 8) & Master Bruce (aged 7) were passengers on *Oroya* which had departed from the port of London, England & arrived at the port of Sydney, NSW, Australia on 7th June, 1891.

From the New South Wales Government Gazette September – October, 1891:

It is hereby notified that, in conformity with the provisions of the Acts of Council, 19 Victoria Nos. 30 and 34, the undermentioned Officiating Ministers have been registered at this Office for the celebration of Marriages:-

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

....

Reverend John Kemp Bruce – Residence, Nowra.

From the New South Wales Government Gazette November – December 1898:

It is hereby notified that, in conformity with the provisions of the Acts of Council 19 Victoria Nos. 30 and 34, the changes of residence of the undermentioned Officiating Ministers have been duly registered at this Office:-

....

Reverend John Kemp Bruce, Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, from Nowra to Wahroonga – 19th December, 1898.

The 1899 Sands Directory for Sydney and New South Wales recorded Rev. John K. Bruce., M.A. (Pres), of Cleveland St., Wahroonga.

The 1903 – 1904 Australian Electoral Roll for the Division of Gordon listed John Kemp Bruce, Clergyman, of Stewart Street, Wahroonga. John Kemp Bruce was also listed as Clerk, of Coonanbarra Road, Wahroonga.

The 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1912 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 & 1918 Sands Directory for Sydney and New South Wales recorded Rev. John K. Bruce., M.A. (Pres), of Coonanbarra Rd, Wahroonga.

John Kemp Bruce was a 63 year old, married, Presbyterian Minister from Wahroonga, NSW when he joined the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 14th December, 1916. His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs M Bruce, “The Manse” Wahroonga, NSW. Chaplain Bruce stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served 2 years as “*Chaplain with V. Batt. Gordon Highlanders & 1 year as Chaplain with A.I.F. Camp.*”

John Kemp Bruce, Presbyterian Minister, signed a Statutory Declaration “*that to the best of my knowledge & belief I was born on the nineteenth day of December 1853.*”

John Kemp Bruce signed an “*Application for a Commission in the A.I.F. - Voyage Only*” form on 14th December, 1916.

John Kemp Bruce was appointed Captain Chaplain on 1st January, 1917 for Voyage Only & without pay or allowances.

Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 10th May, 1917. He was appointed Captain Chaplain on 12th May, 1917 on H.M.A.T. “A24”. Captain Chaplain Bruce disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th July, 1917.

Captain Chaplain John Kemp Bruce was to report to No. 1 Command Depot pending return to Australia. He was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 13th August, 1917.

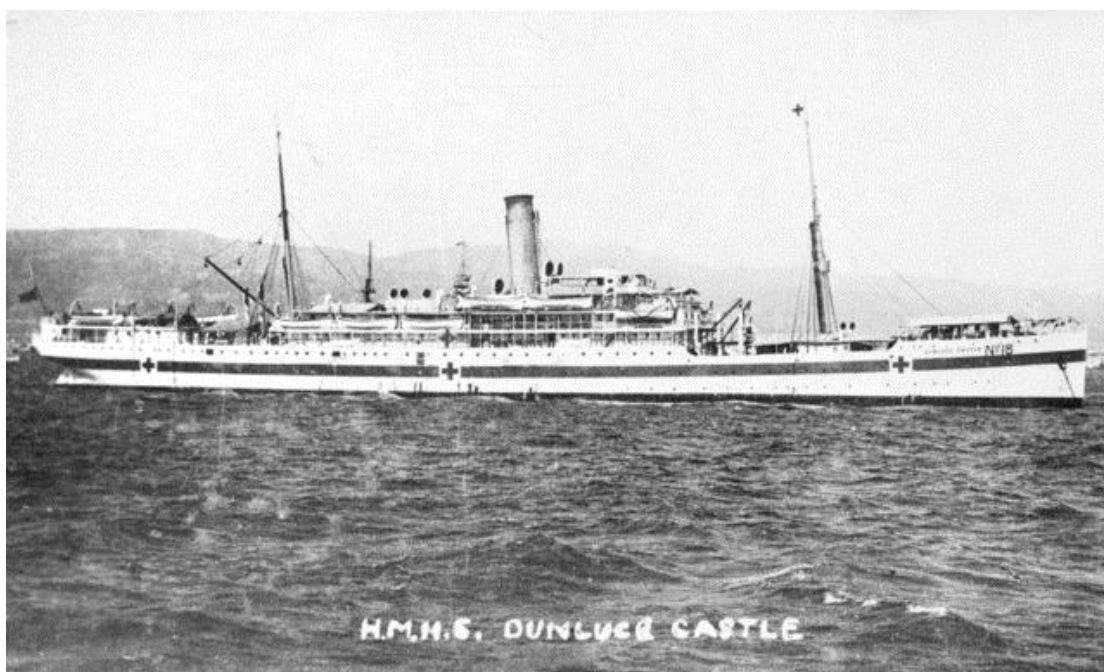
Chaplain John Kemp Bruce was marched out to Headquarters, London on 4th September, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He reported to Chaplain Department, Administrative Headquarters on 4th September, 1917.

Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce was temporarily attached to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 14th September, 1917 – A.I.F. List 233. He was attached for duty at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent from 15th September, 1917.

Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce was detached from attached duty with 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 24th January, 1918 & was marched out to Administrative Headquarters.

Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce embarked on *Dunluce Castle* from England on 24th January, 1918 as Voyage Only Chaplain for return to Australia.

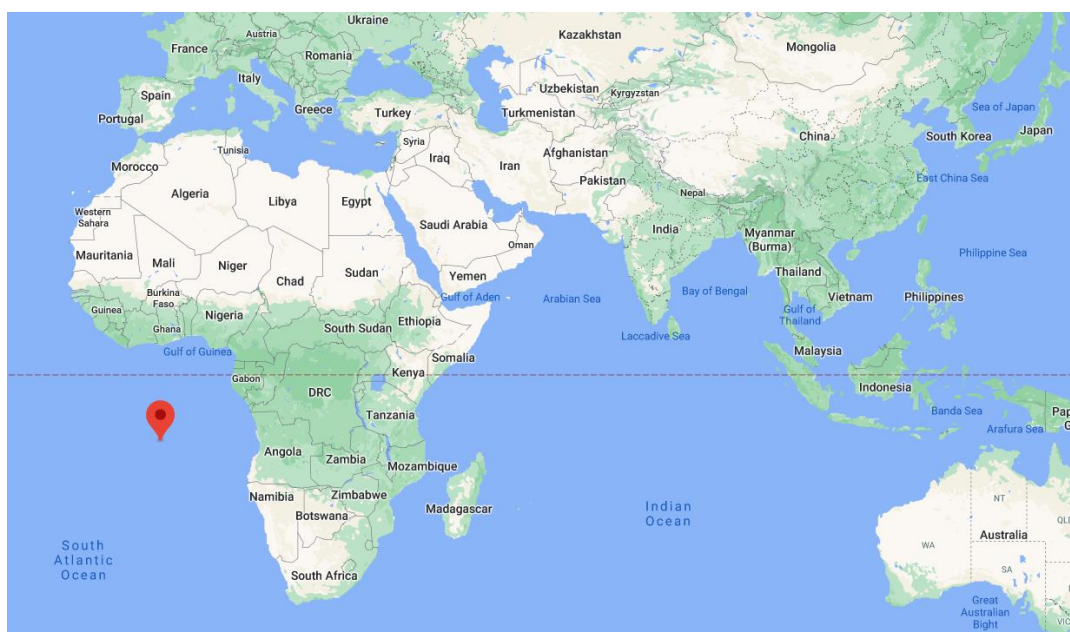
Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce died at 4.55 pm on 9th February, 1918 at Sea on board *Dunluce Castle* at Capetown on returning to Australia from Influenza, Cardiac Dilatation & Angina Pectoris.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 2115

According to British Armed Forces and Overseas Deaths and Burials - Deaths at Sea 1891 – 1972 – Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce died At Sea on board *Dunluce Castle* - Lat. 10° 54' S, Long. 2° 26' W .



A death for J. Kemp Bruce, aged 64, was registered at Wynberg, Cape Province, South Africa on 16th February, 1918.

Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce was buried at sea on the morning of 10th February, 1918. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. (Note: Some forms in the Service Record file for Chaplain John Kemp Bruce state that he was buried at Sea on 9th February, 1918).

Newspaper Notice – *The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 21 February, 1918:

DEATH OF CHAPLAIN J. KEMP BRUCE

It is with the deepest regret that the many friends of the Rev. John Kemp Bruce, Presbyterian minister of Wahroonga, will hear of his death at sea whilst on his homeward journey. In April of last year Mr. Bruce went as a captain chaplain to the troops on a transport, and it was his intention to return to Australia after discharging his military duty as transport chaplain. On reaching England he found that there was a shortage of clergymen available for hospital duty, and accordingly he offered his services to the authorities, and was appointed to the convalescent hospital at Dartford.

In fulfilment of his desire to answer this new call Mr. Bruce applied for and obtained further leave of absence from the Presbytery of North Sydney, and was employed in the gracious work of ministering to our sick soldiers up to the time of his departure for Australia some time in January. He was not, however, destined to return, for from information received it appears he developed influenza, from which he died, and was buried at sea on February 9.

The deceased was a man of genial character, and his outlook on life was broad and intensely human and sympathetic. He took a deep interest in the great questions of the day, and brought to their discussion and elucidation the matured powers of a well-balanced and widely informed mind. As the secretary to the Burnside Homes Mr. Bruce rendered yeoman service, and his interest in the children provided for in this splendid institution was ever keen and practical. His personal charm of manner was united to a shrewd knowledge of men and affairs, and he was of a type of clergyman whose life and ministrations are of inestimable value to the cause of religion.

He undertook military duty at his own expense, being one of the few men whom neither advancing years nor circumstance could prevent from doing their bit for the Empire.

Mr. Bruce, who was 64 years of age, was a son of the late Mr. John Kemp Bruce, of H.M. Customs, Glasgow. He was formerly minister of the Presbyterian church at Peterhead, England, and came to New South Wales in 1891. Shortly after his arrival he was appointed to Nowra, where he remained for several years, afterwards being transferred to Wahroonga. For a term he occupied the position of Moderator, of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales. He has left a widow and two sons - Mr. John Kemp Bruce, stock and station agent at Gilgandra, and Mr. James Whitson Bruce, medical officer at the Crystal Palace, London. His sisters are Mrs. Adamson, wife of Mr. H. Adamson, of the Adelaide Steamship Company, and of Snails Bay, Balmain, and Miss Kemp Bruce, of Snails Bay.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Chaplain John Kemp Bruce contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of his widow to obtain any details regarding his death. The letter reads "*The above Chaplain left England at the end of January, in the "Dunluce Castle", on his way to Australia, and died at sea on the 9th February, 1918..... All the men for Australia on the "Dunluce Castle" were transferred at Capetown to the Hospital Ship "Karoo", but the whole of the medical staff belonging to the "Dunluce Castle" returned to England with that ship. If it is possible for you to get us any information for the Officials connected with the Ship, we will be very grateful. We know Col. Murdoch was acquainted with this Chaplain, because he cabled to the widow, informing her of the Chaplain's death; possibly, therefore, Col. Murdoch may have received some details.*"

- Captain H. Hilton O'Heffernan, R.A.M.C. i/c Officers Ward S.S. "Dunluce Castle" wrote the following letter: "*re the death of Capt. Chaplain J. Kemp Bruce, A.I.F. I write to say the fullest possible details were sent to Mrs Kemp Bruce by myself. A Father McMullen – a fellow padre and great friend of the deceased who went on to Sydney took my letter and told me his first duty on landing would be to call on the widow, to tell her every detail about the death of her husband. In the eventuality of his not having done so, I herewith enclose particulars. The late Captain Kemp Bruce came on board on January 24th complaining of what was*

undoubtedly Influenza. After five days he was quite himself. He steadily continued to improve to such an extent that he expressed himself as feeling fitter and better than he had done for years. On the afternoon of the 8th of Feb. he had a sudden heart attack and though everything possible was done for him, he died within half an hour from "Angina Pectoris". He was buried at sea on the morning of the 10th."

- *Lieutenant C. T. Wood, 54th Battalion, A.I.F. wrote the following details: "Regarding your enquiry, I did not come much into contact with Captain Bruce. He occupied a cot upon departure of the "Dunluce Castle", and not till after his death were we aware that he embarked on duty. Several days before his death he dressed and came on deck, taking things quietly, and occasionally played Chess with Major Carroll. This officer disembarked at Melbourne. Captain Bruce was very keen on taking up work for the benefit of returned soldiers on his return to Australia and had a conversation with Lieutenant Tidswell on this subject. He evidently suffered from heart trouble. He collapsed in the bathroom and was at once taken to his cot. Every effort was made to pull him round by the Commanding Officer and staff, assisted by the Matron and Ward Sister, and oxygen was administered. He came round, but shortly afterward died. He was buried at sea, just a week before we arrived at Cape Town."*
- *Lieutenant W. G. Macdonald, 30th Battalion, A.I.F. writing from X Ward, No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick, Sydney, NSW wrote: "In reply to your inquiry... regarding the death of Captain-Chaplain J. Kemp Bruce. He was in my ward on the "Dunluce Castle" and I think came aboard for duty. He became sick the first day and was in bed for some days. He then improved very much and used to dress and go up on deck. He was very well for some days after that and on the day of his death, he had been on deck as usual in the morning, but was unwell after lunch. He was found on the floor of the lavatory at about three o'clock by an orderly, and brought in to bed. He died about an hour and a half later. I think, but I am not sure, that he recovered consciousness before he died. His effects were listed and made up by the sister and corporal of the ward, and were to be forwarded to Mrs Bruce. On several occasions I saw him speaking to Lieutenant W.T.F. Douglas, 26th Battalion, of Auchenflower, Brisbane, and Matt of the 8th Battalion, now in Melbourne, either of whom may be able to give you fuller particulars."*
- *Lieutenant F. A. Tidswell, 5th Pioneer Battalion wrote the following details: "I came out from England with Chaplain Kemp-Bruce on the "Dunluce Castle", and he was in the same Ward with me. I understand that when he was on the Hospital Train on his way to join the "Dunluce Castle", he was taken ill, and I know that he came as a stretcher case. He was in the same Ward with me, and remained in bed for about 10 days after leaving England, and then used to get up a little each day. Shortly before we reached Cape Town, he was on deck one afternoon, and appeared to be alright, but he suddenly collapsed, with what I take to be heart failure. Everything was done by the Medical Staff to revive him, but he died the same night, and was buried at 6 o'clock the next morning. He was very popular on board, and we all like him greatly. A couple of nights before he died, I had a long talk with him about the work which he intended to take up when he got back to Sydney, in helping to carry on the Returned Soldiers' Association. There was a Roman Catholic Clergyman on board, who saw a great deal of Chaplain Kemp-Bruce, and I fancy that the Chaplain may have left some messages with this Roman Catholic Clergyman. I do not know the name of the Roman Catholic Clergyman, but he was very much liked by everybody and we all called him "The Padre". He left the Hospital Ship "Karoola" in Melbourne, on his way to South Australia, but I understand that he is coming on to Sydney, and he told me that he would try to see Chaplain Kemp-Bruce's people."*
- *Captain S. C. Calderwood, 20th Battalion, Eglinton, via Bathurst, NSW wrote: "He came on board at Avonmouth on January 26th practically an invalid. I was in the same Ward. After a while he was able to get up on deck, but spent most of his time in bed. We saw a good deal of him and we talked a good deal with him. He used to visit the School I was at near Galston sometime ago. One Saturday morning when he was up he seemed more cheerful than usual and seemed so glad he was going home. In the afternoon he did not seem so well and went down to the Lavatory where he collapsed about 3.30 pm. The Orderly brought the Sister. He was then unconscious and he was brought into the Ward. All the Doctors on the ship did all they could for him and Oxygen was administered for about an hour, but he died that afternoon. He regained consciousness before he died for a few minutes. He was buried at sea about 7 am the next morning about half way between Cape Verde and Cape Town. There was a very nice Roman Catholic Padre on board and I believe he wrote to Mrs Kemp Bruce from Melbourne. I told him an address which I thought would reach her. Chaplain Kemp Bruce was very popular and very well liked by all who saw him."*

Messrs Morton & Harris, Solicitors, P.O. Box 3, Nowra, NSW wrote to Base Records on 23rd November, 1949 requesting two death Certificates for John Kemp Bruce.

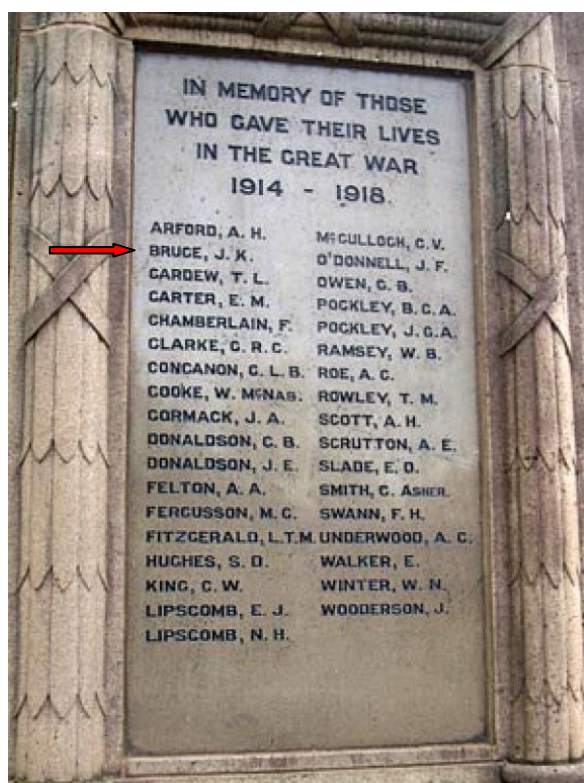
Chaplain, The Reverend John Kemp Bruce was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Chaplain J. Kemp Bruce's widow – Mrs M. Bruce, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1923 & Plaque sent June, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists The Rev. John Kemp Bruce, of Australian Army Chaplains Department. No family details are listed.

J. K. Bruce is remembered on the Wahroonga War Memorial, located at Illoura and Millewa Avenues, Wahroonga, NSW.



Wahroonga War Memorial



Chaplain 4th Class The Rev. J. K. Bruce is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

John Kemp Bruce is remembered by the Hornsby Shire Recollects.



Rev. John Kemp Bruce is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(39 pages of Chaplain 4th Class John Kemp Bruce's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

A NEW HISTORY OF BUCHAN FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

By James Moir, M.A.

CXXVI – PETERHEAD (ST PETER)

In 1834 the Establishment purchased the Methodist Meeting House in Chapel Street for a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church, and opened it as such on the 3rd December, 1835, with the Rev. James Yuill as minister.

A new church was built in St Peter Street in 1842.

.....John Kemp Bruce succeeded 15th January, 1880. He resigned in March 1891, and emigrated for his health to Australia, where he for six years held the charge of Shoalhaven Church. In February, 1898, he translated to the new parish of Wahroonga. The present minister, the Rev. John Wyllie, was admitted 16th July, 1891.....

(Peterhead Sentinel and General Advertiser for Buchan District – 1 October, 1898)

PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY

The Presbytery of Sydney met at St. Stephen's Church, Phillip-street, on Tuesday night. There was a large attendance. The Rev. John Kemp Bruce, of Wahroonga, was elected moderator, and presided.....

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 July, 1904)



The Rev. John Kemp Bruce, of Wahroonga, the new Moderator of the New South Wales General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, was born in Glasgow, Scotland. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and High School, and Glasgow University, his theological training being obtained at the United Presbyterian Hall. During the last year of his theological course, he conducted a mission at RockVilla, Glasgow, which was in a very low state when Mr Bruce took charge of it, but at the end of the year had so far recovered as to be constituted a fully-sanctioned charge. He was called by the congregation to become its minister, but declined. He was licensed as a probationer by the Dundee Presbytery in June, 1879, and in October of the same year was called to Peterhead, his

ordination and induction taking place in the following January. After 11 years' ministry at Peterhead, the health of the elder of Mr Bruce's sons led him to seek transference to Australia, and bearing a commission from the U.P. Church of Scotland, he arrived in Sydney in 1891. His first charge in this State was Shoalhaven, where he remained till 1898, when he was called to Wahroonga. Mr Bruce has also filled several important offices. For some years he was Convener of the Committee on Religion and Public Morals, and subsequently received the appointment of Chairman of the Examining Board, continuing in that position until 1901, when the local board was abolished, in consequence of the union of the State Presbyterian Churches. He has also been a member of the Standing Committees, from year to year, and of the executive of the Centenary Scheme.

(Australian Town and Country Journal – 16 May, 1906)

DEATH OF REV. J. K. BRUCE

His many friends will regret to learn that information reached Sydney on Tuesday afternoon that Rev. John Kemp Bruce, minister of the Presbyterian Church, Wahroonga, had died at sea while acting as a chaplain on a transport bringing returned soldiers to Australia.

Previous to leaving Australia he was visiting chaplain at Milson Island, where his services were much appreciated by officers and men. Though beyond military age, he felt it to be his duty to offer himself for transport duty, and last May left for Egypt, afterwards journeying to Britain, where for some months he did excellent work on Salisbury Plain and in various hospitals, and was expected home in a few weeks.

Mr. Kemp Bruce was a Glasgow University man, and finished his theological training at the Hall of the United Presbyterian Church in Edinburgh. His first and only charge in Scotland was at Peterhead. He arrived in New South Wales about 26 years ago, and was almost immediately inducted minister of Shoalhaven, succeeding Rev. Dr. Grant. For some 20 years he was minister of Wahroonga, and nowhere will he be more missed than amongst his own people. He was elected a few years ago to the chair of the assembly, and as Moderator filled the position with dignity and honor. His Interests were wide, but perhaps his devotion to the Burnside Homes was the most outstanding feature of his work of later years.

Mr. Kemp Bruce was a man of charming personality—young for his years. He has left a widow and two sons — Mr John Kemp Bruce, of Gilgandra, and Dr. Kemp Bruce, at present and since the war began a surgeon in the British Navy.

Memorial services will be conducted at Wahroonga church on Sunday, in the morning by Chaplain R. Scott West, and in the evening by Rev. C. E. James.

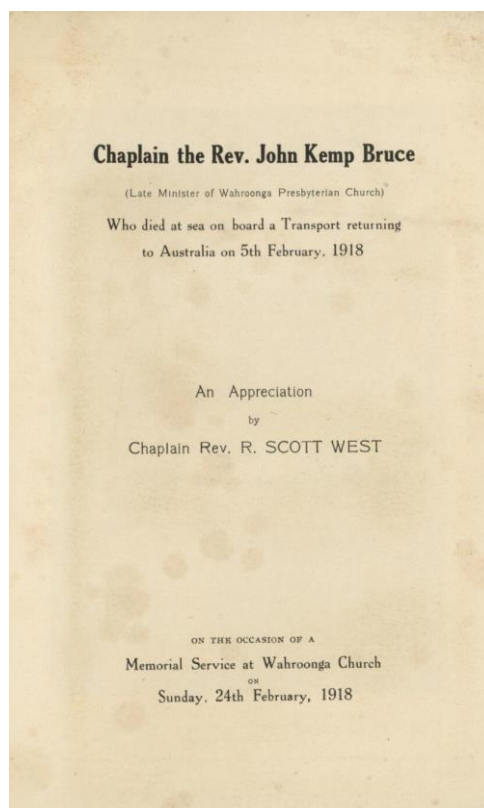
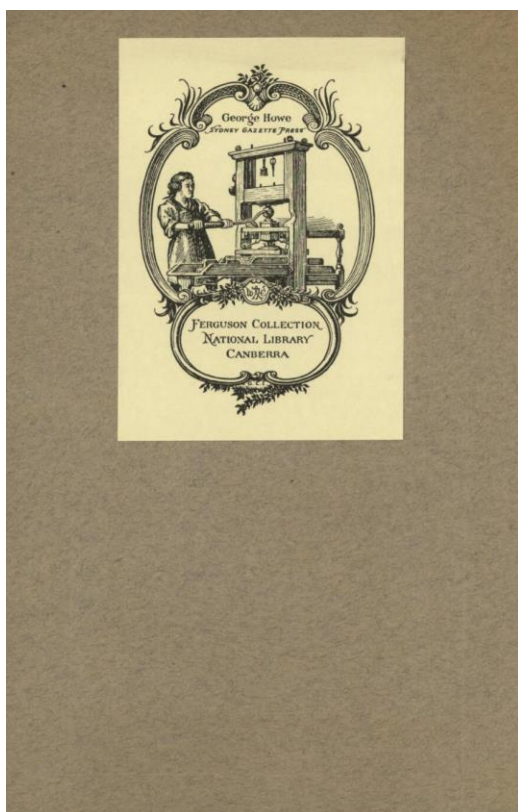
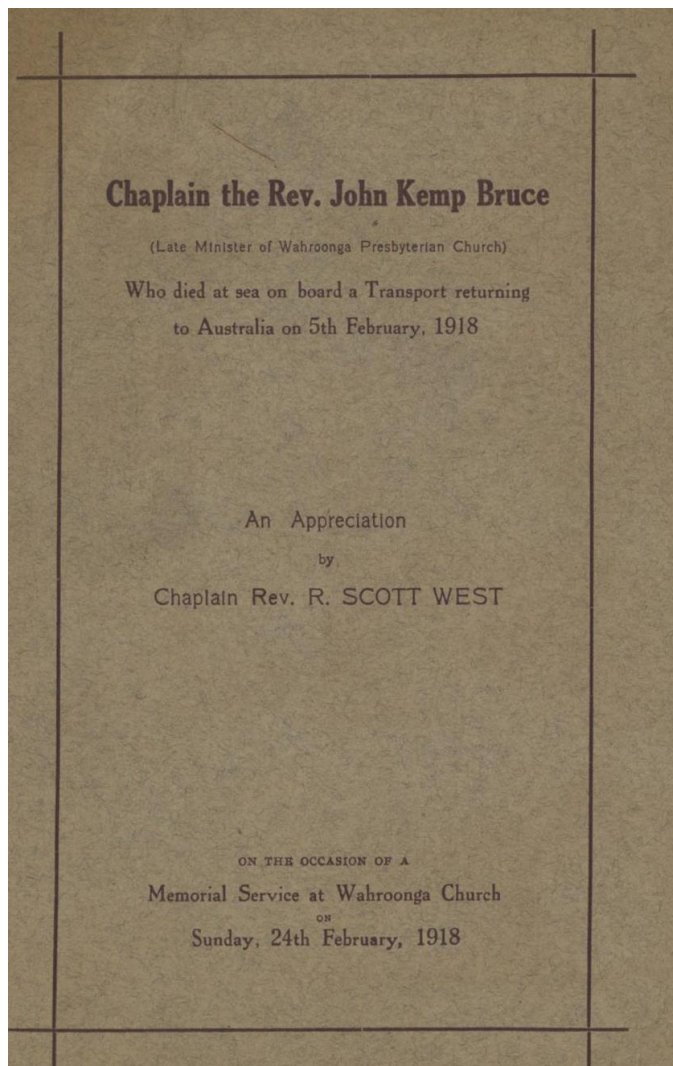
(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 21 February, 1918)

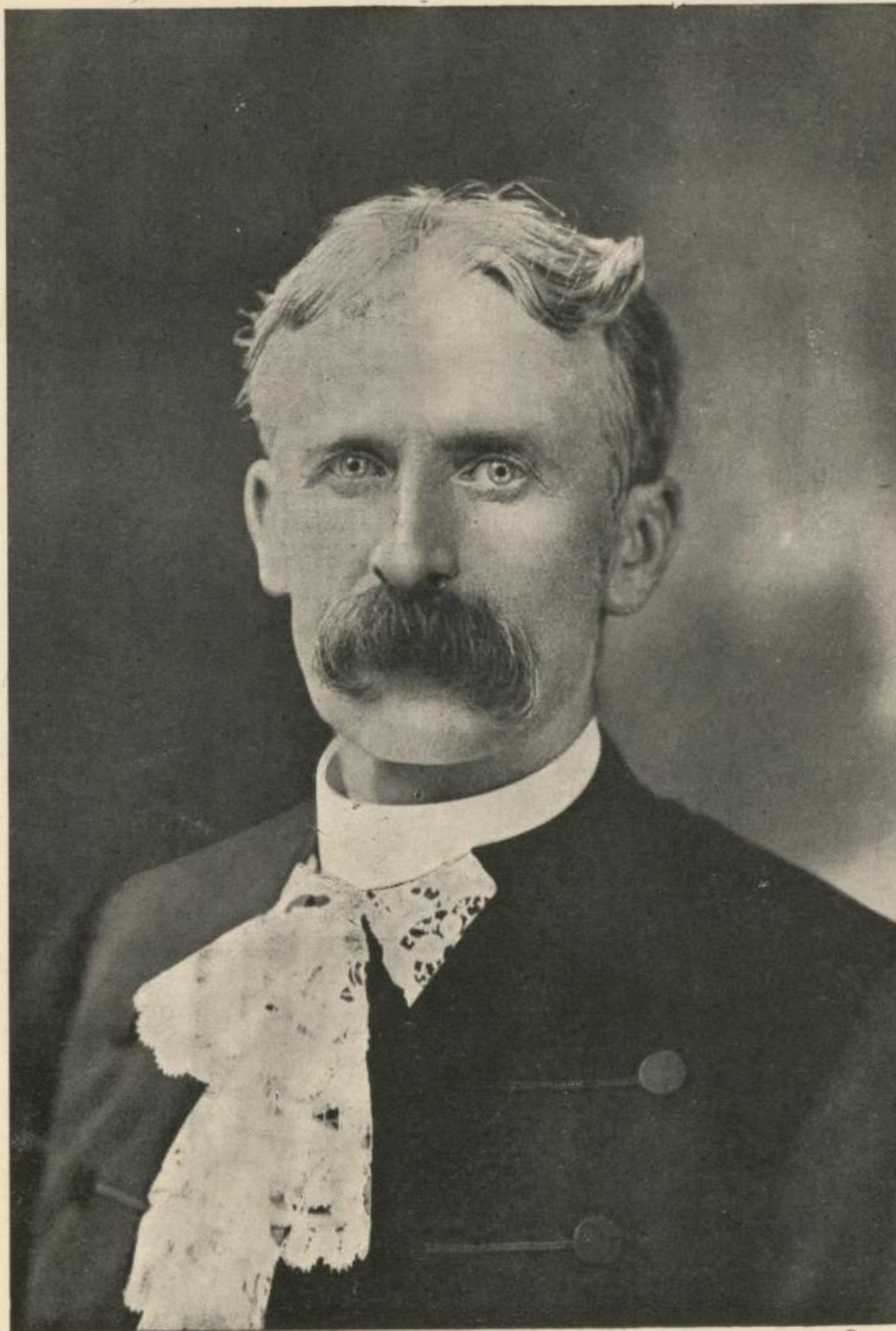
FORMER PETERHEAD MINISTER

The Rev. John Kemp Bruce, formerly minister of the United Presbyterian congregation at Peterhead, and thereafter of the Presbyterian Church, Wahroonga, near Sydney, New South Wales, died at sea from heart failure following influenza. He lately acted as chaplain to the Australian forces.

(Aberdeen Press and Journal, Aberdeen, Scotland - 8 March, 1918) & (Aberdeen Weekly Journal, Aberdeen, Scotland - 15 March, 1918)

Memorial Service at Wahroonga Church – 24th February, 1918 – An Appreciation by Chaplain Rev. R. Scott West





THE LATE REV. JOHN KEMP BRUCE.
This photo was taken when Rev. John Kemp Bruce was Moderator of the
N.S.W. Presbyterian Assembly.

(Job 14, 14.—Rev. 14, 13.)

Under normal conditions, when we are privileged to minister to the needs of a loved one, and have time given us to bid him good-bye ere he passes to his reward, it is no easy matter to say all that one feels and knows. When the call comes suddenly and unexpectedly, as it did to our friend—at least so far as we are concerned, for he was prepared, it is still more difficult. Time is needed to get accustomed to the altered circumstances, and for re-adjustment. While we could have wished that we had been permitted to stand by him, and to see him well on his way towards Home, it may be that the manner of his decease will enable us to hold him in memory as the man we knew in life. He was not allowed to grow old—he was the youngest man of his years, I have ever known; he escaped the invalidism which is so burdensome to the active spirit, and he and we know nothing of the “sadness of farewell.” He was not, for God took him. He will ever stand before us as a man—the work of God, with the silent unknown sea as background.

Shortly after arriving in this State, your minister and I became closely associated with each other in connection with various interests and from the first meeting with him, until the last, I was impressed with the evenness and purity of his life. There is perhaps nothing more critical than a true friendship, and he was a friend in the best sense. He was a man of great natural wisdom; bright and sanguine in disposition, and possessed of that tact which understands and smooths away difficulties. As a consequence his counsel and advice, were much sought after and valued, by all who knew him. He had in a marked degree, what has been termed the saving

sense of humour, and time and again he used it effectively to remove differences, and to bring seemingly discordant elements together.

His power over men was all the greater because he had nothing of that spirit of self-interest which is so marked a feature, both in Church and State, of the public life of to-day. A kindly soul, with an attractive personality, and filled with the desire to help, he did a great deal to lighten the burden of those who were unfortunate. No one rendered more unobtrusive service for the children of the Burnside Homes than he, and the time spent by him in helpful work for the benefit of that Institution, is known only to God and himself.

When the war broke out, and when the Chaplains found it to be impossible for them to overtake the duties connected with the different camps, your minister offered his services, and for many months, acted as visiting Chaplain at Milson Island. It was my privilege to accompany him on one occasion, and it was an inspiration to see how he handled men under most disadvantageous circumstances, and the power he had over them. It was the same spirit of willingness "to do his bit" which sent him overseas, and, as it happened, to his death. His appointment was without remuneration of any kind, save only that which gave him the opportunity of doing something for the "boys." There was in his sacrifice, an expression of loyalty to his Church. He felt that the Church of his fathers should be represented in this particular class of appointments, and as he was beyond the military age for Continuous and ordinary Troopship service, he went at his own charges.

One sometimes wonders in these days, if the sense of shame has died out altogether in certain sections of the community, when our old men and

school-boys are taking up the burden of Empire and Humanity, while our streets are crowded with the physically strong, who only lack the courage needed to make them soldiers.

As a minister, John Kemp Bruce was faithful to his Master, and to you. His piety was deep and strong and manly. It was when you became intimate with him, that you learned something of his love for Jesus Christ. Religion was that which counted for most in his life. He was proud of being your minister, and in his passing you have lost a friend, that will not be easy to replace.

In the providence of God his life was marvelously rounded off and finished. He realised a dream of years in visiting the Homeland, and while at home, he preached at Peterhead, in his first and only charge in Scotland. He renewed acquaintance with some of his former people, and we can imagine the joy to him and them at meeting with each other after so many years of separation. We are glad that they met, as they will not be strangers when they meet at Home.

And he saw his boy, and found him to be all that his heart desired—a capable and brave Naval Surgeon, and, best of all, a follower of Jesus Christ. It is not given to every man to know that his lads—both of them—about whom he prayed, and with whom he played, have given themselves unreservedly to the Master.

Having joined the old congregation with the new, and having preached the same Gospel to both, he was called hence, his works following with him .

There is something very beautiful about the thought of the father, carrying the love of mother and brother to the boy at home, and having re-

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newed the bond of affection that time and distance could not destroy, midway between, ascending to the presence of the Heavenly Father bearing with him, the record of a life lived well, and of a family made one in Jesus Christ.

It seems as if he could do no more, and God called him to his rest. It is one of the great privileges of life, to know a good man, and John Kemp Bruce was a good man.

Our prayerful sympathy goes out to her, whose privileges were greater than ours, but whose loss is also greater. May the Everlasting Arms be underneath her, and may the Divine Love sustain her, and in God's own time, may she and the boys meet husband and father, where there is no sorrow and no separation.



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Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

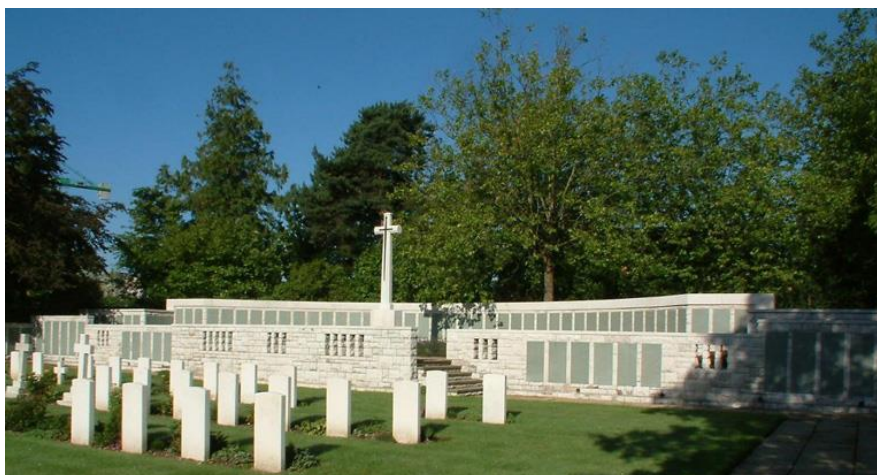
The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Cross of Sacrifice



Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

Photo of Chaplain 4th Class Rev. J. K. Bruce's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial

(Photo from CWGC)