



On June 11, 1921, the family of Frederick and Lillian Bruce in Galt, Ontario was pleased with the arrival of little Ronald. He is the third child, after him 2 brothers and 3 sisters were born. The Bruce family is members of the Galt Presbyterian Church community.

Ronald left school at a young age to work as a laborer. Looking for adventure and a better paying job, he enlisted in the Canadian army on June 28, 1940, in Brantford, Ontario. He is just 19 years old. It is striking that his mother indicated in a report in 1942 that he was born in 1922.

After initial military training in Hamilton and Borden, Ronald is sent overseas to the United Kingdom. On February 28, 1941 he arrived in Gourrock, Scotland. In March he is assigned to the Royal Hamilton Light Regiment and follows further military training in England.

He then took part with his regiment in the failed attack on Dieppe on August 19, 1942. During that Allied action, only 2,000 of the 6,000 soldiers returned to a safe harbor in England. The rest died on the beach of Dieppe or were taken prisoner of war by the Nazis. Most POWs are injured. So does Ronald Bruce. He is transported to a stalag camp in Thüringen (D). But his injuries from a gunshot wound to the right thigh are so serious that upon arrival at the camp he is immediately taken to the prisoner of war hospital in Obermassfeld-Grimmerthal (Thüringen, Germany). On the day of his arrival at the hospital, his condition is very bad, caused by the abscess formation at his wounds. Despite being operated on and treated by British surgeons, he died the next day, August 28, 1942, at the age of 21, without having been conscious. He is buried with full military honors at the cemetery in Meiningen (D). A salute of honor by a German firing party and a "last salute" by a British "trooper" accompanied his burial.

After the war, his remains are transferred to the British military cemetery on Heerstrasse in Berlin. On June 4, 1948, Ronald Bruce was finally laid to

rest at the Canadian Cemetery in Holten. His grave is in plot IV row D
grave no. 1

