Charles Clifford Ineson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 409730

Regiment: - Canadian Infantry 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish)

Killed in Action: - 11th August 1918 aged 37

Cemetery: - Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France 111.C.26

"GOD'S WILL BE DONE"

Batley News, 24 Aug 1918 (photo)

Family Details:

Charles Clifford Ineson was born on 23th January 1881 in Field Lane, Batley to Samuel and Sarah Ineson (nee Fisher) and was baptised at St.Paul's, Hanging Heaton on 6th March 1881. On the census of that year Samuel was a cloth merchant employing 2 men and 1 boy.

Samuel had previously been married to Martha Hepworth and had 2 children, Samuel (1854) and Hannah (1860) but Martha died in 1863

Samuel and Sarah had children Herbert (1867), Harriett (1869), Clara (1871), Alfred (1872), Edith (1874), Sarah Ann1876), Olive (1878-1902), and Charles Clifford (1881). In 1891 the family had moved to live at 3, Whitaker Street and were still there in1901 but Clifford had moved to Moss-side, Manchester where he was working as a draper's assistant. His mother died in 1910.

Charles Clifford attended Batley Parish School and Batley Grammar School and was also a choir boy at the Parish Church for quite a number of years. After leaving school he was apprenticed to the drapery business in Harrogate eventually moving to Horsham, Sussex where he was in business for himself. He is listed in the Kelly's Directory for that year. In Horsham he employed 2 live in assistants, a housekeeper and a servant. He decided to immigrate to Canada sailing on the S.S. "Cymric" on 24th February 1914. He arrived in Portland on 7th March 1914.

The "Cymric" was built in Belfast by Harland and Wolff and made her maiden voyage to New York on 11th February 1898.During both the Boer War and the First World War she was pressed into service as a troop carrier. On May 8th 1916 she was torpedoed three times by Walther Schieger's "U-20" which had sunk the Lusitania a year earlier. The Cymric sank the next day with a loss of five lives, 140 miles northwest of fastnet.

Charles changed his occupation and became a pump tester.

He travelled over 1,000 miles to enlist in the Forces in Canada.

Service Details:

He signed his attestation papers in Canada on 31st August 1914 where he was described as being 5 ft. 6 inches with a girth of 36 inches. He was of a dark complexion with blue eyes and black hair, and had vaccination marks on his left arm. He was finally attested by a magistrate on September 8th 1914.

He joined the 16th Battalion of the Canadian Forces who assembled at Valcartier Camp in September 1914 and were part of 3rd Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division. They were made up of recruits from Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg and Hamilton.

The Division sailed for England from Quebec on 30th September 1914 on board the ADANIA, arriving on 14th October. The motto "Deas Gu Cath "(Ready for the Fray) was adopted on the 3rd day of their journey to England.

Training recommenced on Salisbury Plain where the H.Q. was based at the" Ye Olde Bustard "pub near Stonehenge and whilst there, on December 16th, the 16th Battalion was given the official title "Canadian Scottish". They were amalgamated with 79th Queens Own Cameroon Highlanders of Canada, 72nd Seaforth Highlanders (Canadian), 50th Gordon Highlanders (Canadian)and 91st Canadian Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Division embarked from Avonmouth on 12th February 1915 arriving at St. Nazaire three days later. Between 17 February and 2 March each Canadian brigade was attached to a British division for indoctrination into trench warfare. The Canadian division then relieved the 2nd Border Regiment south of Fleurbais. In mid-April they relieved a French Division at Ypres.

Possibly, the Ypres action was April 22 when gas (chlorine) was used for the first time on the western front by the Germans.

The French didn't know what it was and many of them did a runner. A lot of their troops there were Algerians. It was then down to Canadian troops to plug the gap and prevent the Germans advancing into Ypres.

It was the first time the Canadians had been involved in any serious action and it's widely accepted that they performed heroically. It was proof the Canadians would be a force to be reckoned with. It was again underlined on August 8 at the Battle of Amiens, which German army chief Erich Ludendorff described as the 'Black Day of the German Army'.

The Canadians (under general Arthur Currie?) played a key role in ramming the first nail into the Germans' coffin as a co-ordinated British offensive made huge advances against the enemy on the first day of the 'Hundred Days', culminating in Armistice Day, November 11. In the war diary notes, it stated on August 7 how the movement up to the front ahead of the attack was carried out in total secrecy, which was a key

to the success. It caught the Germans by surprise. The war diary for the 16th Battalion Canadian Scottish tells of the attacks near Amiens in August 1918.

"*August 7th the battalion remained in various communication trenches all day, movement being absolutely restricted. Each company reconnoitred the line for assembly positions. Companies moving forward after dark relieved the 49th Australian Battalion. All companies were assembled by 3.45 am. The battalion assembled without casualties.*

August 8th the battalion attacked at 4.20 am

August 9th at 3.30 pm the battalion moved to billets. It is expected the battalion will attack in the morning of the 11th

August 10th Enemy shelled the village at long range and inflicted casualties of 2 killed and 5 wounded. The expected attack did not materialise as the 32nd Division has been attached to the corps, and they are attacking instead of our division.

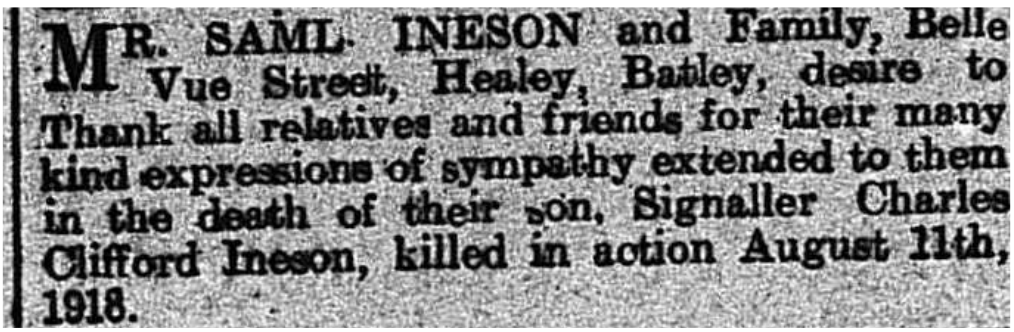
August 11th Charles Clifford's service records state "

August 11th at 8.30pm an enemy barrage was opened on the front line and our 8.0.8.was sent up. During the evening the enemy, whose artillery appears to be concentrated against our advance shelled our position heavily. His resistance seems to have stiffened considerably. Major Gilliat was wounded seriously and two other ranks were killed with nine wounded"

A pal wrote: -

"*He was killed a few days ago whilst serving his King and country. He buried him just outside the village and held a short service."*

At the time of his death Samuel, his father, a former flock merchant, was living at Belle Vue Street, Healey, Batley.


MR. SAML. INESON and Family, Belle Vue Street, Healey, Batley, desire to Thank all relatives and friends for their many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in the death of their son, Signaller Charles Clifford Ineson, killed in action August 11th, 1918.

Batley News 31st August 1918

Rosières-en-Santerre was the scene of heavy fighting between the French Sixth Army and the German First Army at the end of August, 1914. It came within the British lines in February, 1917. With the advance to the Hindenburg Line in the spring of 1917, Rosières became part of the back area; but in the German offensive of March, 1918, it was reached by the enemy on the 26th. It was defended on the 27th, in the Battle of Rosières, by the 8th Division and the 16th Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery; but these troops had to be withdrawn in the night. On the 9th August, after a stubborn defence, the village was retaken by the 2nd Canadian Division and tanks. The Extension was made by the units which retook Rosières. It consisted until the Armistice of four rows (Plot I, A-E) containing 97 graves.

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The war cost the 16th Battalion 5,491 casualties of which 1,412 were fatal. Charles Clifford is commemorated on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church, Batley Grammar School and Rosieres Communal Cemetery, where 3 English, 3 Australians and 17 Canadians were buried on the same day.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group