Clement Manning





Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett

Rank: - Guardsman

Number: -22862

Regiment: - Grenadier Guards No.1 Coy 3rd Bn.

Killed in Action: - 22 August 1918

Clement was born in Niederschoneweide, a German industrial town which subsequently assimilated Berlin but military details state he was born in Batley. He was born on 13 November 1895, the son of Michael Manning, who came from Kilkenny and Mary Eliza Manning nee Waterson, who came from Triangle near Halifax. The couple had married at Batley Parish Church in August 1881 and their first two children were born in Batley—Annie Elizabeth b. 1881 d, April 1882 and John Tynan b, April 1883.

Michael worked as a rag grinder in the woollen textile industry and John Blackburn of Batley opened a textile factory in Germany in 1879 and Anton

Lehmann's followed in 1881. English employees with expertise were employed in these factories and they along with their families moved into the communities and had lucrative employment. The children were educated at the village school but English was spoken at home and at Sunday School, so the children were bi-lingual. Batley Feast was celebrated as was the Jubilees for Queen Victoria in 1887 and 1897.

The Manning's other children were born in Germany. Michael Wilfred was born in March 1886, Lilian in October 1887 and died April 1889, Hester born in February I891, Cecil Tynan July 1893, Henriette born October 1893 and died February 1903, Helene born March 1897 and died the following month and Walter Nicholas born in August 1900.

When the family came back to Batley, they worshipped at St. Mary of the Angels R.C. and Clement attended the associated school.

In 1911 the Batley address was 39, Providence Terrace, Bradford Road, Batley. This was in the Carlinghow area and the census describes Clement as a butcher boy.

Before enlisting he was employed by the Batley Branch of the Argentine Meat Company. He played football with the Batley shop assistant's team. The Manning brothers were all much taller than average, with the elder boys being around the six- foot mark. Clement would have met the Guards height criteria. He enlisted in February 1915; his brothers Cecil Tynan joined the Royal Navy in 1911 and served throughout the war. Micheal Wilfred enlisted with KOYLI in early September 1914 but quickly changed to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, serving with the RND. He was taken Prisoner of War on 9 October 1914 having taken part in the Defence of Antwerp and spent the war in captivity. On 25 October 1915 Clement's father died.

Clement went to France on 20 October 1915 to serve with the 3rd Grenadier Guards and five days later his father died. Clement saw action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette in September 1916, where he was injured. Commencing on 15 September 1916 there was the use of tanks. The 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards unit war diary recorded prior to zero hour: -

--the "tanks" were allotted to the Division could be heard making their way up in rear of us.

They also recorded that at the roll call at the end of the day 413 officers and men were killed, missing or wounded. Amongst the killed was Lt Raymond Asquith, son of Morley born Prime Minister Herbert Asquith. Clement was wounded, receiving what was recorded as gunshot wound to his left arm. He was evacuated back to England on board the *HMHS Asturias* on 17 September 1916.

Back in England he was assigned to the Regiment's home-based 5th (Reserve) Battalion to recuperate. On 19 October he was admitted to Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital. Millbank, suffering from indigestion which needed 12 days treatment. He was back on 28 November 1916 suffering from an accidental foot injury and concussion. The lengthy stay involved treatment at St. George's Hospital and Epsom's Horton Hospital and was not discharged until 14 February 1917. A week later he was admitted again suffering from rheumatic fever, with a discharge date of 21 April 1917, which also involved treatment at the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, Bath. He was hospitalised again on 20 June 1917 when enteritis struck but he was able to undertake light duties from the end of July 1917. On 5 September 1917 he was considered fit to return to duty.

He was able to make a final visit home before returning to the Front, rejoining his Battalion. On that final visit on 12 September 1917 he told his mother, in the presence of his brother Walter and sisters Cecelia and Hester that *"if he went under he had left his will in her favour"*

His brother John Tynan joined up in March 1917 under the Derby Scheme and went to France the following month.

The 21 August 1918 marked the start of the Second Battle of the Somme. From the 21 to the 23 August 1918 the 3rd Grenadier Guards were involved in what became known as the Battle of Albert.

The official history of the Grenadier Guards describes the events of the battle. Clement was in 1 Company, 3 Platoon – the platoon led by 2nd Lt Clough Taylor. On 20 August they took up its assembly positions East and South East of Boiry. Their orders were to attack Movenneville. The attack commenced in the early hours of an initially extremely foggy 21 August. The fog veiled the Guards Division as they advanced towards their first objective. Later the fog lifted, exposing the attack to enemy artillery and the inevitable accompanying hail of German machine gun fire. Surprisingly, the Guards incurred few casualties during this stage of the battle. By midday they had secured all their objectives, including Movenneville, the 3rd Guards taking a chalk pit to the southeast of the

village, whilst a platoon belonging to the battalion had advanced as far as the outskirts of Courcelles. By noon V1 Corps had attained almost all of its objectives and were positioned along the Arras- Albert railway line where they came under intense artillery fire. At this stage of the battle it had been intended for tanks and the cavalry to take over from the infantry to exploit the situation, but none had appeared. Unexpectedly Number 1 Company, who were intended to have a reserve role that day, played a key part in the events.

Captain Fryer, leading 1 Company, described the aftermath of the 21 August and the events of the 22 August as follows:

That night passed off fairly uneventfully: we were content with our day's work, the Commanding Officer had praised us, and we heard that the higher authorities were all pleased, and so we were all contented. It is hardly necessary to say the men were wonderful they always were. Were it possible to mention them all by name in this book I would do so… No one was more loyally served by the men under him than I was, from the C.S.M. to the youngest guardsman…

On the morning of the 22nd at dawn we were just getting ready to stand to arms in the ordinary way when the Germans opened a terrific barrage on us, and a messenger arrived from the front line to say the Germans were coming over: we raced out from the quarry, ran the gauntlet of innumerable shells, and reached the railway safely...

Someone on our right sent up the S.O.S., our artillery put down a very good and accurate barrage, and all was quiet. It was impossible to get communication with our first platoon during this time, and we had no idea how they were faring…..it was an organised counter-attack with the idea of the Germans regaining all they had lost the day before. It failed completely. The rest of that day was very trying, we were all tired, and the Germans shelled us relentlessly all day, and also trench-mortared us; they got onto our quarry, and it became far from healthy.

Sometime during the day of 22 August 1918 Clement was killed, with the family receiving official news followed up by a letter from the battalion's adjutant in late September/early October.

Despite this the Manning family clung to the hope he was alive and submitted an enquiry to the Red Cross on 20 November 1918. He had been buried at was just south of Hamelincourt, but after the Armistice he was laid to rest at Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, France where bodies were brough in from smaller

cemeteries. His burial return was dated 9 September 1919. His headstone bears the inscription chosen and paid for by the family" *Rest in Peace".*

His mother was awarded a weekly pension of 8s 6d. for the loss of her son.

Clement was awarded the 1914-15 Star, Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Mary's Church, St. John's Carlinghow, and Batley War Memorial.



Thanks to Jane Roberts and for more details see pasttopresentgenealogy.