

Wilfred Pierpoint

Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel

Returned

Members of the 1st Canadian Contingent



Wilfred Pierpoint



His Story

Wilfred was born in Manchester on 24th June 1898 as Wilfred Sago and in 1901 was living as a 'boarder' at the home of John Pierpoint in Middlewich Road Holmes Chapel. John was a farmer with a smallholding.

By 1911 Wilfred had been adopted by John Pierpoint and was living in Middlewich Road aged 12. In 1913 his grandmother gave him a choice of going to grammar school or emigrating to Canada so, at the age of 14, he left by himself on a boat from Liverpool and settled in Eyebrow, Saskatchewan.

After the war he returned to Saskatchewan where he met his wife, Alice. They were married in 1922 and their only child, a daughter Roma, was born in 1929.

He enjoyed eating, especially his mashed potatoes, and a pint of beer from time to time. As a child, whereas his father was allowed a whole egg, they had to share an egg on Sunday. Easter was the one day that they were able to have a whole egg.

He was self educated, became an accountant and retired at the age of sixty five from the Telephone company

He died on September 23rd 1972 and is buried in the Veteran's cemetery in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

His War Record

When the Great War broke out, he signed his Attestation Papers on Dec 23rd, 1914 in Indian Head and enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. He lied about his age and claimed he was born in 1893. He was only 16 but the apparent age in his Certificate of Medical Examination described him as "appeared 22 yrs".

He fought for 1 month less than 4 years. He had had shrapnel in his face (mouth) which left a small scar and got trench foot from fighting in the front line. He required special shoes for his trench foot which had deformed his feet.

His *Discharge Certificate* was signed in Regina, Saskatchewan Nov 18, 1918 (Now aged 23 years 5 months?). Private Wilfred Pierpont Nr.55415 was a member of the 10th Canadian Mounted Rifles. His War Service Badges also list him as serving in the 3rd Div Cav. Squad (Service in England) and Cavalry M.G. Squad (Service in France).

A story he told was about the night that he and a friend snuck out to see where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. They narrowly escaped being captured by the Germans when an older couple let them hide in their basement – also risking being shot if they were caught.

The Parish Magazine reported that in January 1918 he was 'still' in hospital from which he was not discharged until July 1918.