
A Hellifield 'Canadian' remembered

I thought at this time of year it was appropriate to remember one of Hellifield's fallen servicemen from the First World War. Charles Herbert Hopwood lived with his family in Lancashire and Yorkshire Terrace and he was employed as a locomotive fireman for the L&Y railway company. A keen sportsman he was a member of the Hellifield AFC team that won the Craven league in the 1904-05 season.

A report from the Craven Herald newspaper archives from 1905 is reproduced below. "*Hellifield were crowned champions of the new Craven Football League. They took the cup to the Temperance Hotel where it was filled with a liquid which 'had a strong resemblance to well flavoured tea'. From there it was on to the Black Horse where the cup was filled again, songs and dancing followed and the*

evening ended with the loyal toast."

Presumably something stronger than tea was used to fill the cup at the Black Horse!

Around 1910 Charles emigrated to Canada, taking up a fireman's position on the Canadian Pacific Railway. He continued to play football in Canada, playing in the Saskatoon FA league. With the onset of the First World War Charles enlisted in the Canadian expeditionary Force in 1915. Sadly, Charles was to be killed in action on the 2nd of June 1916.

Another report from the Craven Herald Archives tells his story. "*Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood of Lancashire and Yorkshire Terrace, Hellifield, have received the sad news that their son, Corporal C. H. Hopwood, of D Company, 5th Battalion, 1st Canadian Division, has been killed whilst on active service in France. The information was sent by the Canadian Contingent Record Office, who returned a letter for Corporal Hopwood with the remark, 'Killed in action on June 3rd'. The deceased, who was 30 years of age, was a native of Hellifield. He went out to Sutherland, Saskatchewan, about six years ago, and was employed as a fireman on the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was formerly employed in the same capacity by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Hellifield and Goole. He joined the 2nd Canadian*



Corporal C.H. Hopwood



Hellifield AFC 1904-5. Charles is shown standing third from the right on the back row.

Division in January 1915, and had been in France about 12 months, where he volunteered for transfer to the 1st Division. Corporal Hopwood was of a bright and cheerful disposition, and whilst in Hellifield he took a keen interest in athletics and sports. He will, perhaps, be best known in connection with the old Hellifield Football Club and was a member of the team when Hellifield won the Craven League Championship in 1904-5. He was also an old Sunday School scholar of the Baptist Church. He leaves a wife, who is at present in Canada."

Although the newspaper reports that Charles was killed in action in France his unit was involved in the battle of Mount Sorrel in the area around Hill 60 and the Menin Road near Ypres in Belgium on that date. The newspaper reports his date of death as 3rd June but the official Commonwealth War Graves Commission records have it as

2nd June. Charles has no known grave, he is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing In Ypres, Belgium, Hellifield village War Memorial and also on his parent's headstone in St. Aidan's churchyard Hellifield.

In Canada he is commemorated on the



Saskatoon footballers' memorial

Saskatoon Football Association

MEMORIAL TO
THE FOOTBALLERS
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT
WORLD WAR, 1914-1918

Unveiling and Dedication

WEDNESDAY, 8TH JUNE, 1921

At 2.00 P.M.

THE MEMORIAL WILL BE UNVEILED
BY

REV. B. W. PULLINGER,
OF DETROIT, U.S.A.

Roll of the Fallen

J. E. BARTLETT	S. V. LAVER
B. J. D. BATHMAN	P. LIPPROSS
H. BATT	A. S. K. LLOYD
R. BATT	J. W. LOWES
B. W. BAYES	A. MACDUGALL
W. BLACE	G. H. MARSH
T. DOWELL	A. M. MINTOSH
H. DROWN	P. MARTEL
A. CAHENS	S. MARTEL
H. CAIRNS	W. MAY
M. K. CARBUTHRE	S. H. MONK
T. K. CHALMERS	A. MOSE
A. T. CLAYTON	W. MITCHELL
T. V. CLARE	W. K. MUNRO
G. W. CLEMENTSON	W. NIBBOL
T. CLINCKSKILL	A. H. PRAT
J. G. A. COCKBURN	V. D. B. RAE
J. M. COLES	C. RIFFINGALE
R. H. COOK	C. ROBBINS
W. K. CRAIGHEAD	T. ROBERTSON
G. F. DOREE	J. J. SCOTT
A. B. DOUGLAS	W. T. SINCLAIR
K. GEMMELL	D. F. SMART
H. B. GIBBONS	C. B. SMILLIE
J. W. GOBLE	T. H. SMITH
W. GRANT	A. G. STARKINGS
J. W. GRHAM	C. A. STEEDING
D. K. GORDON	A. STEELE
P. J. GUY	W. SPENCE
W. B. HAY	G. SWIFT
W. HARRISON	R. SYMLIE
C. HOPWOOD	I. TINKER
K. HUNTER	T. WATERS
T. HODGINS	W. T. WESLEY-LONG
R. KEY	A. E. WHITEHOUSE
S. M. KING	J. B. WIGHT
W. W. KING	W. WOOD
P. KINNEAR	

Saskatoon F.A. Roll of Honour

Saskatoon Football Association's memorial for footballers who fell in the Great War; this memorial is located in Kinsmen Park Saskatoon in the province of Saskatchewan and is

thought to be the only memorial to football players killed during the great war anywhere in the world.

John Percy.