



Chesley Fillier
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 2943
World War I

Born: 04 December 1897

Died: 01 March 1969

Place of Birth: Clarke's Beach, Newfoundland

Parents: John and Elizabeth Fillier

On the 16th of July 1916, Chesley made his way to St. John's and enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at the CLB Armoury depot on Harvey Road

Chesley was almost nineteen at the time. On his enlistment documents, he gave his trade as merchant and his faith as Methodist. Physically, Chesley has light brown hair, blue eyes and stood 5'5" tall.

Chesley's Service Record speaks for itself and contains the following handwritten entries:

1. 28 Jul 1916: Embarked St. Johns on board the S.S. Sicilian for the UK



2. 30 Nov 1916: Embarked UK for the BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
3. 12 Dec 1916: Joined Unit in the field
4. 14 April 1917: Wounded. Admitted to field hospital with severe wounds to both arms and left leg. Then to the 26th general hospital at Etaples (France)
5. 27 April 1917: Invalided to England
6. 29 April 1917: Admitted to Charing Cross hospital
7. 07 Feb 1918: Transferred and admitted to 3rd London general hospital at Wandsworth
8. 14 Jun 1918: Furloughed then report to depot but furlough was extended to 22 Jun 1918
9. 22 Jun 1918: To Newfoundland for discharge
10. 06 Jul 1918: Arrived Newfoundland
11. 23 Jul 1918: Discharged as being "medically unfit for further service"

Chesley had been severely wounded at Monchy (France) on April 14, 1917. These wounds healed but he had lost much of the movement of his arms (see the medical insert below for exact details. This ended his service, as he was sent home and discharged. This was the second time Chesley had been wounded, as his medical notes an earlier wound by shrapnel to his right leg.

It is interesting to note that on August 18, 1918, Chesley asked that the remainder of the war gratuity to which he was entitled be paid to him in a lump sum. This was a rather unusual request, but he asked so he could start a business of his own in his home town of Clarke's Beach. His request was granted based on his service and the glowing letters of support for him from his superior officers.

The business he began was a mainstay in the area for years.

Chesley is found in the 1935 Newfoundland general census at the age of thirty-seven (37). He is a widow with a five year old daughter. He has a live in domestic, Selina Bradbury keeping house for him.

By 1945, Chesley is now married to a lady by the name of Mary (37). Marjorie Morgan is the household servant at age 21.

Chesley died on March 1st, 1969, at the Old General Hospital in St. John's (see the death certificate inserted below). He is buried in the Old Clarke's Beach United Churchyard Cemetery.

His obituary from The Compass dated 06 March 1969 is reprinted below:



CHESLEY FILLIER

Chesley Fillier, well-known Clarke's Beach businessman died at the age of 71. Born on December 4, 1897, Mr. Fillier joined the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (No. 2943) in 1914 and was wounded at Monchy. He subsequently was hospitalized in England for three years and in Newfoundland for one year. He started his business as a general merchant at Clarke's Beach in 1920. Mr. Fillier was a life-long member of the Loyal Orange Association and was a Past Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Newfoundland, having served from July 1948 to July 1950. He was elected as Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Newfoundland and served from July 1954 to July 1956. He was also a Past Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America. He was a member of the Masonic Order and an active member of the Clarke's Beach United Church. Mr. Fillier leaves to mourn his wife May, daughter Jean (Mrs. Eugene Gosse) of Spaniard's Bay, son Chesley, who is attending Memorial University; one brother Raymond of Rochester, New York, and three grandchildren, Robin Daphne and Mark Gosse. He died Saturday, March 1 at the General Hospital in St. John's.

Report of Medical Board.

Station **St. John's Nfld.** Date **July 9th., 1918**
 No. and Rank **2943 - Pte.** Age **21** Height **5'6"**
 Name **FILLIER CHESLEY** Complexion **Fair**
 Unit **Royal Nfld.** Eyes **Blue** Hair **Light Brown**
 Address **Clarkes Beach**
 Former Trade **Clerk**
 Enlisted at **St. John's On June 1916** (The Board will please note how the soldier's appearance corresponds with above description.)
 Disease or Disability Original **G.S.W. LEFT ARM. COMPOUND FRACTURE OF ULNA & R. ARM SEVERE INJURY TO ULNAR NERVE. LEFT THIGH & BACK**
 Subsequent

Present Condition (Compare with previous Board)

*4 large scars left forearm some loss of bone.
 Can move hand & arm in every way but grasp is weak.
 4 scars over upper arm near shoulder right arm large stellate scar near axilla large scar near elbow. Left hand wasted & paralyzed. Cannot rotate arm. Can
 large stellate scar over sacrum linear scar over buttock. Long scar over popliteal space.
 Walks well*

THE ENTIRE DISABILITY: To what extent is his capacity lessened at present for earning a livelihood in the general labour market? *Not at all*

PENSIONABLE DISABILITY: To what extent is his capacity at present for earning a full livelihood in the general labour market lessened by that proportion of his disability due to or incurred during service? *100% Not worth*

Recommendation of Medical Board

Discharge permanently unfit
 Members of Board
Cluny Macpherson
Major

H. A. ...
John ...
W. ...

Approving Medical Officer. D. H. S. NEWFOUNDLAND.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS

DEATH NOTIFICATION
AVIS DE DÉCÈS

Ottawa 4, Ont.
Sept 30, 1969

Date

TO: Copy for HO file

A:

Attention of:
Compétence de:

NAME Service No. CPC No. 260029
NOM FILIER Chealey Matricule No. 2943 WW1 CCP No.
WVA No.
AAC No.

Information received from: PME CPC St John's Nfld Date Aug 25, 1969
Information reçue de:

Date of Death March 1, 1969
Date du Décès
Cause
Place St John's General Hospital
Endroit

Name and address of next-of-kin (if known)
Nom et adresse du plus proche parent connu

Distribution: WSR - VI - DO - HO
DASG - ASS - ~~DO~~ - BC

Pour le chef,
C.C. Richards
for Chief, Central Registry Division.
Dépôt central des dossiers.