



Nathan Anthony
Alias: Nathan Frost
World War I
Canadian Expeditionary Force
Regimental #'s 793746 & (414984)

Born: 30 Dec 1893

Place of Birth: Clarke's Beach,
Newfoundland

Parents: Joseph Anthony and his wife
Elizabeth Frost.

Is it possible for one soldier to have two places of birth, two different names, two different official service numbers and two CGWC Certificates marking his death? The conventional train of thought would lead one to believe that such a thing was out of the realm of possibility but what if the theory is supported by official documentation from the government of Canada? The following is such a case.....

Nathan Anthony, Canadian Expeditionary Force Private, Regimental No. 414984 or Nathen Frost, Canadian Expeditionary Force Private, Regimental No. 793746, which or is neither correct?

In fact, both are correct and are the same person! Read on to find out how this could be.

Nathan enlisted in the CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Force) at Sydney, Nova Scotia on 13 Aug 1915 and assigned regimental No. 414984. His Attestation documents describe him as 5' 6", with brown hair, grey eyes and being a Methodist. Birthplace is given as Clarke's Beach, Newfoundland.

He was taken on strength of the 40th Battalion of the CEF on the 07 Aug 1915. His unit sailed for overseas on 18 Oct 1915 but according to his service record, Nathan was absent from the embarkation. He was hospitalized with pleurisy on 23 Aug 1915 to 16 Sep 1915 and this may account for him not sailing with his unit. The service record for No. 414984 ends there.

Then on 21 Jan 1916, a Nathen Frost enlists at Campbelltown, N.B., gives his place of birth as Glace Bay, N.S. He is given Regimental No. 793746 and assigned to the 42nd Battalion Infantry of the CEF.

Nathen is described as being 25, single, 5ft 6 inches tall and having black hair with blue eyes. He gives his faith as Methodist and next of kin as his sister, Mrs. Emma Fraser of 42 New Berry Street, Glace Bay, N.S.

It is clear that Nathen could not write since in each place requiring his signature, the notation is "his X mark" and the signature is provided by a witness in his stead.

The service record for soldier #793746 is as follows:

1. 26 Oct 1916: Embarked Canada aboard the S.S. Corsican
2. 5 Nov 1916: Arrived England
3. 28 No 1916: Proceeded overseas to France and TOS (Taken on strength) in the field with the 42nd. Canadian Infantry Battalion
4. 03 Apr 1918: Wounded gsw (gunshot wound) to the right hand
5. 06 Apr 1918: hospitalized at Boulogne and then to Ecault, France on 25 Apr 1918
6. 27 Apr 1918: Discharged to Rest Camp at St. Martins
7. 08 Aug 1918: Report from base, killed in action. More than likely at the Battle of Amiens, France (which began of that day in 1918).

Letters were sent to his sister in Glace Bay, N.S. as well as his father Joseph Anthony in Blaketown, Newfoundland informing of his death.

The service record clearly states that the correct or true name of this soldier is Anthony, but he served under the name Frost (his mother's maiden name) and that both service numbers are correct and are combined under the 793746 one. Additionally, Nathan is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial in France



He has been provided two (2) CWGC Certificates. One in each of the family surnames (Anthony & Frost). Seems a fitting memorial to a young soldier who paid the supreme sacrifice.

In an attempt to answer the original questions posed at the beginning of this biography, common sense would dictate a resounding “No” to all but in retrospect and based on the official documentation provided in the Library and Archives of Canada, one would have to say that the case has sufficiently been made to answer “Yes” to all questions and to defy logic, as it were, in this case for sure.

For Nathan Frost-Anthony, no more need to be said other than for us to remark that
“We will Remember Them”