



Nathaniel Ian Butler

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Regimental No. 1444

World War I

Born: 20 April 1895

Place of Birth: Clarke's Beach, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Lethbridge) Butler

Nathaniel enlisted in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment on 16 April 1915 (The Regiment had not yet received the designation "Royal"). He was 20 years old and a printer by trade.

The picture painted of Nathaniel in his Attestation (enlistment) papers is that he stood 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighed 125 lbs, had a fair complexion with light brown hair and blue eyes. He had a distinguishing scar on his right shoulder. He gave his religious denomination as Roman Catholic.

Nathaniel would serve in WW I for a total of 1391 days or three (3) years and two hundred eighty-two (282) days.

His service record has some twenty-five (25) or more entries, so the dated entries to follow are some but not all of his official service record.

1. 20 06 – 15: Embarked St. John's for the UK on board the S.S. *Calgarian*



SS *Calgarian* was an Allan Line steam turbine ocean liner that was built in 1914 and converted into a Royal Navy armed merchant cruiser. Until 1916 she served with the 9th Cruiser Squadron, patrolling off West Africa and then off the east coast of the United States. She spent the remainder of her career making transatlantic crossings between Canada and Britain.

2. 28 – 03 -16: Embarked for BEF (British Expeditionary Force) in France
3. 18 – 05 – 16: Admitted to 87 f h (field hospital)
4. 02 – 06 – 16: Invalided to England
5. 03 – 06 -16: Admitted to hospital at Cardiff
6. 09 – 08 – 16: Furloughed and then attached to Depot
7. 30 – 12 – 16: Embarked for BEF
8. 19 – 01 – 17 Joined battalion in the field
9. 10 – 08 – 17: Admitted to No. 89 field hospital

10. 16 – 08 – 17: Discharged to unit
11. 22 – 08 – 17: Admitted to 130 field hospital
12. 28 – 10 – 17: Rejoined unit in the field
13. 03 – 12 – 17: Wounded
14. 31 – 12 – 17: Admitted to 5 general hospital at Rouen with GSW (gunshot wound)
15. 30 – 01 – 18: Discharged to base depot
16. 07 – 02 – 18 to 21 – 02 – 18 (14 days): To England for care
17. 22 – 02 – 18: Admitted to Wandsworth hospital while on leave from BEF
18. 10 – 04 – 18: Discharged hospital and granted furlough
19. 11 – 04 – 18: Proceed to rejoin BEF
20. 18 – 04 – 18: Rejoined base Depot at Rouen, France
21. 18 – 04 – 18: Hospitalized at Rouen
22. 22 – 08 – 18: Transferred to England
23. 12 – 12 – 18: To Newfoundland for discharge
24. 21 – 12 – 18: Arrived Newfoundland
25. 25 – 01 – 19: Discharged “Medically unfit”

During his service, Nathaniel requested and was granted permission to marry, a young lady by the name of Jessie Irvine Hanson of Paisley, Scotland became Mrs. Butler in late 1918.

In his service record are numerous letters regarding his wife and the provision of passage for her to Newfoundland. It all seems to have worked out since the 1921 Newfoundland census finds Nathaniel and Jessie in St. John’s, Newfoundland living on Lime Street.

Apart from that one notation, the two do not appear in Newfoundland in any other documentation.

It seems they moved to the United States of America sometime after 1921 and before the next general census of 1945.

They are located in the 1940 General Federal Census living in New York. Leonard Street New York, Kings, New York to be precise. Nathaniel has found work as a printer and is a naturalized citizen, Jessie is a homemaker and mother of three (3) girls, Eleanor, Elizabeth and Evelyn, all born in the U.S.

The Butler’s were residents in the same place in 1935 as noted in the census entry log.

Nathaniel Passed away in March 1952 and Jessie in 1974. They are buried in The Evergreens Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.