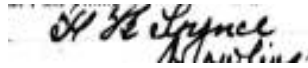


FRANKLIN K SPENCE



Franklin Kirkham Spence was born in 1875 in Spilsby. In 1881 he was living in Spilsby where his father John was an ironmonger employing 5 men. By 1891 there were two apprentices and a son working for John Spence in the ironmongery business. Sadly Franklin's father went bankrupt in 1895 but he continued trading and in 1901 manufactured and sold his own 'Eresby' bicycle.

By 1901 Franklin was working as a butcher and living in Hardings Lane (then known as Ardens Lane), Partney with his wife Rebecca Mary and his mother-in-law Rebecca Clifton. Sadness had fallen upon the family in 1900. The church records for St Nicholas Church, Partney show that two sons, Clifton Franklin Spence and Joseph Clifton Spence were baptised on 14th November 1900 and that Joseph was buried on 16th November 1900 and Clifton on 28th November 1900.

A daughter, Josephine Mary Clifton Spence was baptised in St Nicholas Church on 26th January 1902, a son John Edward Kirkham Spence baptised 29th November 1903 and another son Stuart Crawford Spence born on 6th November 1909 and baptised on 26th December 1909.

Franklin enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment on 9th April 1908 at the age of 38 years and 1 month having already served in the volunteer force from 7th March 1892.

As a member of the territorial army he attended annual weekly training camps.

The Annual Training at Skegness in 1908 was not of a very arduous character, and every effort was made to render training in Camp attractive and popular. Much good work was done however, Company and Battalion drill were assiduously practised, the elements of manoeuvre were learnt, and the general standard of efficiency at the end of fourteen days was notably improved.

The Annual Training in 1909 took place at Garendon Park, Leicestershire, where the newly-formed Lincoln and Leicester Brigade was brought together for the first time under the command of the Brigadier, Col. A. M. Carthew-Yorstoun. The training was of the usual nature, chiefly Company and Battalion work, with two days of combined Brigade training. The weather was very fine, hot and dry, and a serious heath fire occurred in the neighbourhood, which the Battalion assisted to subdue; in recognition of their services, the owner of the property forwarded a cheque for £50 to Battalion Funds.

In 1910, the Annual Training was carried out at Buxton, where a Brigade Camp was again formed, and more extended Brigade and Battalion manoeuvre was practised than in the previous year, as a large stretch of open land was available. Unfortunately, the weather this year was very

bad during the greater part of the time, and seriously interfered with the training programme.

In 1911 the Battalion again performed their Annual Training in a Brigade Camp at Garendon Park under favourable weather conditions. At this time Franklin was working as a farmer, living in Hardings Lane, Partney.

In 1912 it was decided to assemble for the Annual Training the whole of the North Midland Division in one area, and Aberystwyth was selected as the site of the Camp. The actual Divisional Training was very elementary but extremely valuable, enabling units of different Arms to obtain a rough idea of how to work together, and affording an opportunity for Infantry to watch the work of other Arms, especially Artillery. Owing to the long marches necessary in Divisional operations the training was strenuous and exhausting, but all ranks worked well, and the Divisional Commander was very satisfied with the result.

Franklin was discharged from the army on 8th March 1916 as being permanently unfit for War Service. He was suffering chronic abdominal pain after an operation on an inguinal hernia and was awarded the Silver War Badge.

Franklin and Rebecca's son Donald Franklin Spence was baptised on 28th March 1920. Franklin's occupation was now given as 'farmer'. He died in 1932 and was buried at Partney on 4th March 1932.