

**Soldier Profile**

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Based on the information that we gathered on Pvt. Charles Thompson, we were able to determine that he survived the war and made it home without any significant injuries. According to his attestation paper at the time of his enlistment, Charles was 36 years of age and worked as a firefighter in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he was born and raised. Charles enlisted directly into the No 2. Construction Battalion on October 6, 1916, and served for approximately two and a half years until he was discharged due to demobilization on March 22, 1919. Throughout these years, we determined that Charles was earning on average twenty dollars a month according to the pay forms found in his service file. According to the separation, allowance forms the pay was being sent to his wife Georgie Thompson back in Halifax. We are unsure of the date on which Charles and Georgie got married. However, we know they did not have any children together as of 1916, based on Charles's information provided on his attestation papers. Following the war, we determined that Charles returned to Halifax and ultimately ended up employed as a labourer, according to the information found on his death certificate in October of 1937. This death certificate told us that Charles died as a result of a dilated heart caused by some form of disease; however, we were, unfortunately, unable to make out the handwriting indicating what that disease was. The majority of the information that we found on Pvt. Charles Thompson came from his service file in the Library-Archives, the 1911 Census, and the Nova Scotia Archives website. Searches of the Archived news reports and ancestry searches all yielded little or no information. It was difficult for us to find any information regarding Charles' family as we were only able to find the names of his parents and half-brother listed on his death certificate.

Research for us was challenging and complicated. We found many areas of discrepancies and not a lot of new information outside of what was given through the Library and Archives website. Our group found it very difficult to keep up with the amount of data we found, and we often found it challenging to keep track of everything. Therefore, we suggest creating a document in which will be used to organize all of the information. Further, we recommend that you arrange all data according to specific categories. For example, it is helpful to create a separate section for each individual involved, one section for the soldier, and additional sections for individuals who are significant in the soldier's life, such as their wife, children, mother/father, or siblings. Further, we suggest keeping an accurate record of each website you visit, your searches, and what information came from which site. By keeping detailed notes, it can aid in your searches and prevents you from finding duplicates of information. We recommend that teachers inform their students that this kind of research is not easy, and it will take a tremendous amount of effort to find relevant information. We also recommend telling students that not all information can or will be found, and when certain information cannot be found, encourage them to research the possibilities why the data can not be found. For example, I searched many hours on multiple websites searching for our soldiers' birth information and felt defeated when I could not find any information. I then switched gears and researched why I could not find any information and found out that birth registrations in Nova Scotia from 1864-1877 were incomplete as at that time, parents did not have to register the birth of their child if they did not wish to do so.