

**Private Jess Ransome**  
**Regimental Number: 15105**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment**

**born: about 1890 - died: 21 May 1918**

Jess Ransome, son of George (born about 1845)<sup>1</sup> and Mary (born about 1847) Ransome, was born in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire in 1890.<sup>2</sup> He was the youngest of seven children: five sons (Tom, born about 1868, Charles, born about 1876, George Edward, born about 1885, Frederick, born about 1887, and Jess) and two daughters (Annie, born about 1878 and Alice, born about 1880).<sup>3</sup>

Jess' mother, Mary, died in 1899.<sup>4</sup> By 1901, he was living at 10 Robert Street in Scunthorpe, with his father, his sister, Alice, and two brothers George and Frederick. George was a blast furnace man and his brother George was a steel worker.<sup>5</sup> In 1911, Jess was living with this father and brother, Tom, with his sister, Alice, at 9 Church Street, Scunthorpe. Alice had married Arthur Edward Morley in 1902<sup>6</sup> and they had two sons. Jess' father was still working at a blast furnace and Jess was a labourer. Alice's husband also worked at the blast furnace.

Jess enlisted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment sometime before December 1915.<sup>7</sup> The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion was formed at Lincoln in August 1914 as part of the K1 Army Group of Kitchener's Army and was under the orders of 32<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in 11<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division. The Battalion first served in Italy and Egypt and then moved to France in July 1916 to reinforce the Third Army on the Somme.<sup>8</sup>

Jess first entered the war in the Balkans on 22 September 1915.<sup>9</sup> It was in northern France that he was gassed. He was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 20 May 1918. He died and was buried the following day. The chaplain, J. K. Tibbits, presided over his burial in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 1, Row F, Grave 26). Jess' wife was notified of his death, at 9 Church Street, Scunthorpe – the same address as Jess and his sister's family in 1911.<sup>10</sup> The money owed to Jess was sent to his sister, Alice Morley.<sup>11</sup>

On 20 May, 370 soldiers were admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station – by far the highest number of admissions in any one day that month.<sup>12</sup> This brought the total number of patients to 522. In the whole month of May, there were 115 deaths at this CCCS – more than in any of the other three and a half months that the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS was in Pernes. The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.<sup>13</sup>

Jess was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 January 2015), entry for Jesse Ranson, Registration district: Glandford Brigg, Sub-registration district: Winterton, ED, institution, or vessel: 12, Piece: 2617, Folio: 155, Page Number: 36

<sup>2</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 January 2015), entry for Jess Ranson, Registration district: Glandford Brigg, Inferred County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 689

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<sup>3</sup> "1891 England Census," entry for Jesse Ranson and "1901 England Census," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 3 December 2014), entry for Jess Ransome, Registration district: Glanford Brigg, Sub-registration district: Winterton, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 3103, Folio: 162, Page Number: 40, Household schedule number: 261

<sup>4</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 January 2015), entry for Mary Ranson, Registration district: Glanford Brigg, County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 415

<sup>5</sup> "1901 England Census," entry for Jess Ransome

<sup>6</sup> "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk), accessed 19 January 2015), entry for Alice Ranson, District: Glanford Brigg, County: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7A, Page: 1466

<sup>7</sup> He must have enlisted before that date because he was eligible for the 1914-15 Star for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.

<sup>8</sup> "The Wartime Memories Project - The Great War: 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment," <http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/lincolnshireregiment6.php>: accessed 4 December 2014

<sup>9</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 November 2014), entry for Jess Ransome

<sup>10</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2014), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 505. There is no evidence of Jess' marriage, so it is possible that the 1 CCCS record is incorrect and that his next-of-kin was his sister, Alice. His effects were sent to his sister after his death.

<sup>11</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 19 January 2015), entry for Jess Ransome.

<sup>12</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 15 December 2014)

<sup>13</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>14</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Jess Ransome