

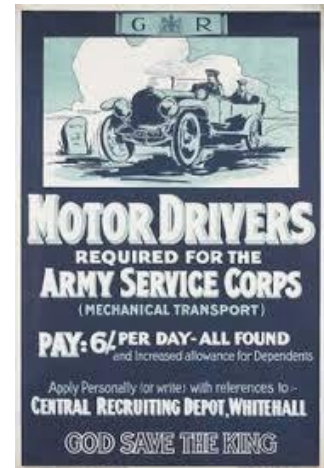
**Private Charles Mattison**  
**Regimental Number: 102217**  
**264 Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps**

**born: about 1890 - died: 18 November 1918**

Private Charles Mattison was the youngest child of Charles and Annie Mattison of Belfast, Northern Ireland.<sup>1</sup> He was born about 1890 in Belfast. He had four siblings: Walter Henry (born about 1881), Lizzie (born about 1884), Sarah (born about 1886) and John (born about 1888). In 1901 and 1911, the family was living at 33 Combermere, St. George's Ward, Belfast, Antrim.<sup>2</sup> His father, Charles, was a coachman or a stableman. By 1911, his son, Charles, was a van driver.

Charles enlisted in the 264 Motor Transport Company of the Army Service Corps on 26 May 1915, at the age of 23.<sup>3</sup> He was a chauffeur. When he enlisted, he received a positive recommendation, indicating that he was a "very good motor driver," from J. B. Ferguson, an automobile manufacturer in Belfast,<sup>4</sup> who was possibly his employer at the time.<sup>5</sup> Experienced drivers were needed for the war effort.

After he enlisted, he served at home in the 56<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Sub-Park until 24 February 1916 when he left for France, landing in Rouen on 28 February 1916. He received a 1<sup>st</sup> Good Conduct Badge on 26 May 1917. He was later transferred to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division, Motor Transport Company. He had period of furlough in England from 20 January to 3 February 1918. After his leave, on 15 May 1918, he was re-assigned to the 48<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. Six months later he:



Recruitment poster<sup>6</sup>



C Mattison in Auberchicourt Cemetery  
(Source: Author)

... was admitted to this CCS 11/11/18 suffering from influenza. No bronchitis on admission but on 13/11/18 a few crackles left base lung. Grew progressively worse dying 5.30 AM November 19/18. Death due to illness contracted on active service.

According to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station chaplain's journal he was admitted on 9 November and died on 18 November.<sup>7</sup> He was buried on 19 November in the Auberchicourt British Military Cemetery (Grave 17, Plot 1, Row B), with the chaplain A. D. Reid presiding. The chaplain also notified his mother, Annie, of his death. His father had already died and his remaining siblings were Sarah and John. The monies owing to him from the army after the war were sent to his mother and his two remaining siblings.<sup>8</sup>

Sixty-seven people (soldiers and civilians) died at the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS in November 1918. The work of the Centre had shifted from being primarily surgical to medical, to deal with the influenza pandemic.<sup>9</sup> Influenza accounted for most deaths at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station after

the Armistice. In spite of the horrific number of soldiers killed in World War I, the influenza pandemic, which affected the whole world and scourged Europe in 1918-1919, killed more people than the war itself.<sup>10</sup>

Auberchicourt, a village about 12 kilometres to the east of Douai, was occupied by Commonwealth troops in October 1918.<sup>11</sup> The Auberchicourt British Cemetery, which is just west of the village, was set up at the end of October and was used until February 1919 while the 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations were located nearby.

Charles was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "1901 census," The National Archives of Ireland

([http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Antrim/St\\_George\\_s\\_Ward\\_Belfast/Combermere\\_Street/955052/](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Antrim/St_George_s_Ward_Belfast/Combermere_Street/955052/); accessed 25 March 2015), entry for Annie Mattison

<sup>2</sup> "1901 census," The National Archives of Ireland, entry for Annie Mattiso; "1911 census," The National Archives of Ireland

([http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Antrim/St\\_George\\_s/Combermere\\_Street/162344/](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Antrim/St_George_s/Combermere_Street/162344/); accessed 25 March 2015), entry for Annie Mattison

<sup>3</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 26 March 2015), entry for Charles Mattison, Regimental Number: M2102217, Form Title: Short Service Attestation. Unless otherwise mentioned, all references to his military service come from this source.

<sup>4</sup> "J. B. Ferguson," Wikipedia ([http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_B.\\_Ferguson](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._B._Ferguson); accessed 27 March 2015), translation by Reverso ([www.reverso.net/](http://www.reverso.net/))

<sup>5</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," entry for Charles Mattison

<sup>6</sup> "Motor Drivers Required for the Army Service Corps recruitment posters: designed by V C Pollex, 1915," *The War to End All Wars* ([www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com); accessed 30 March 2015)

<sup>7</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 723. The entry on the web site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission also indicates the date of death as 19 November 1918. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 25 March 2015), entry for Mattison, C., Service No: M2/102217

<sup>8</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 25 March 2015), entry for Charles Mattison

<sup>9</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=FIN&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=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G); accessed 15 December 2014)

<sup>10</sup> "The Influenza Pandemic of 1918," (<https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>; accessed 3 February 2015)

<sup>11</sup> "Auberchicourt British Cemetery," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/59509/AUBERCHICOURT%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 3 February 2015)

<sup>12</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 26 March 2015), entry for Charles Mattison