

POSTCARD



**Corporal
Joseph Balfour
1896-1978**



Address

A Hero Lived Here

118 Union Street

Ingersoll, ON

N5C 3G4

Corporal Joseph Balfour

Joseph was born in 1896 in Fifeshire, Scotland and raised there. He enlisted in the Scots Guards in 1914 and was serving in France by early 1915. As well as spending time in the trenches, Joseph also delivered dispatches by motorcycle from Front Lines to Headquarters. He then joined the Regimental Band and learned to play the bass drum. Joe returned to Scotland in 1922 and married Margaret (Maggie) Auld. In 1926, Joe, Maggie and a small daughter, Helen, immigrated to Canada.

While they were living in Strathroy, the Ingersoll Pipe Band came to town. After their performance Joe asked if he could "take a turn" on their bass drum - he was immediately invited to join the band. When the Ingersoll Pipe Band celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1960, he was described by people documenting the event as "probably the most spectacular Bass Drummer in Canada." Tall and with erect military bearing, he deserved the accolade. His flawless performance was always a highlight of any Band appearance. Joe was a member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band for 30 years. When World War II was declared Joe once again joined the Army. This time he enlisted in the Veterans Guard of Canada and saw duty in various Prisoner-of-War camps in Northern Ontario and Manitoba. Joe was involved with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119 since its beginning in 1928. Corporal Joseph Balfour passed away in 1978, he rests in Harris Street Cemetery.

above excerpt from: *Thank you! A tribute to Ingersoll Veterans* by Yvonna Holmes Mott

In partnership, Oxford County Library and Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum recognize the service of Ingersoll veterans.

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