



Private Hugh (*Hughie*) Carter (Number 414756) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Canadian Machine-Gun Corps, Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, the site of the Australian National Memorial: Grave reference III. AA. 3.

*(Right: The image of the badge of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps is from the [canadiansoldiers.com](http://canadiansoldiers.com) Web-site.)*



There exists apparently no information in his files as to the circumstances of Hughie Carter's departure from the Dominion of Newfoundland to Canada except to mention that the 1911 Census does not record him as living with his brother and their step-mother's family in the Newfoundland District of St. George.

(continued)

His occupations prior to military service recorded as both those of a miner and of a foundry-worker, Hugh Carter enlisted on April 12 of 1915. This is confirmed by his first pay records which document this date as being the day on which the Canadian Army began to remunerate him for his services. On the same small card it shows him being taken on strength by the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Canadian Infantry.

Hughie Carter next presented himself for medical examination in the community of Sydney Mines on April 30 of 1915 where he was also attested on that day. On the same April 30, to complete the formalities, the Commanding Officer of the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Vincent, declared – on paper – that... *having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.*

The 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*Nova Scotia*) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force was a force whose formation had been authorized on the first day of 1915. The unit was mobilized four months later, on May 11, at Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia, mostly a tented affair, which was apparently where Private Carter underwent his primary training\* while awaiting his passage overseas.

*\*On June 21 of 1915, just days after Private Carter and the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft's departure for the United Kingdom, the main body of the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion was transferred to Camp Valcartier, Québec, where it underwent further training until October of that same year when it sailed for overseas service.*

Private Carter departed from Canada on June 15 of that year, 1915, when he as a soldier of the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion – the main body and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft were both to follow in October, four months afterwards\* – boarded His Majesty's Transport *Caledonia* in Halifax harbour for the trans-Atlantic crossing to the United Kingdom. The vessel sailed later, on that same day.



Private Carter and his draft were not to take passage alone on board *Caledonia*. Also on the ship for the voyage were the following units: 'A' Squadron of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles, boarded in Montreal on June 9; the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry; Section 1 and the Headquarters Company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Ammunition Column; and the Remount Depot of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division – these last three having boarded the vessel in St. John, New Brunswick, on June 9.

*\*Thus the documentation in his files recording Private Carter as sailing on October 18 would appear to be incorrect.*

(Right above: *The photograph of the Anchor Line ship Caledonia is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

*Caledonia* docked in the English south-coast naval port of Plymouth-Devonport nine days after leaving Canada, on June 24, 1915. From there Private Carter's records show that the personnel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft\* were transferred immediately by train to the large Canadian establishment at Shorncliffe, a camp complex adjacent to the English-Channel town and harbour of Folkestone in the county of Kent.

(Right: *Little remains of Shorncliffe Military Camp today apart from a barracks occupied by Gurkha troops. The Military Cemetery almost alone serves as a reminder of the events of a century ago.* – photograph from 2016)



(Right below: *A view of the coastal town of Folkestone almost a century later as seen from the white cliffs of nearby Dover* – photograph from 2009)



At Shorncliffe the new arrivals were immediately attached – on the day of their arrival – to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, only recently re-formed as a reserve battalion. These reserve units completed the training of incoming troops from Canada and prepared them for their eventual departure for *active service* on the Continent.

(Right: *The French port of Boulogne at or about the time of the Great War* – from a vintage post-card)



(Right below: *The French port-city of Le Havre at or about the time of the Great War* – from a vintage post-card)



It was to be only just more than a month later - on August 28-29 - that Private Carter was attached to another battalion, the 13<sup>th</sup>, transferred both on paper and by ship. It is likely that, being at Shorncliffe, his detachment took that ship from nearby Folkestone, to land at Boulogne on the French coast opposite, only two hours' sailing-time distant.

From Boulogne Private Carter's contingent was transported to the large Canadian General Base Depot which had been established close to the port-city of Le Havre on the estuary of the River Seine.

It was here that Private Carter was officially *taken on strength* of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Six days later he was one of the re-enforcement draft of two-hundred sixty-five other ranks – wearing Black-Watch tartan kilts according to the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary – who reported *to duty* on September 4, 1915.



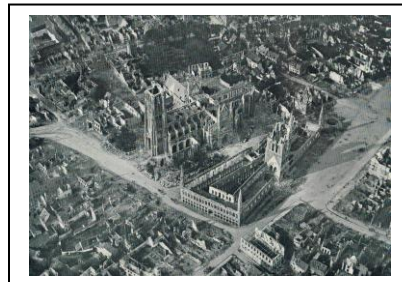
(Right above: *One of the several variations of the Black Watch tartan* – from the *Scottish Tartans Authority web-site*)

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(continued)



The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*Royal Highlanders of Canada*) was an element of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, itself a component of the (1<sup>st</sup>) Canadian Division\*. It had disembarked in France in February earlier that year and had been despatched northwards to the Fleurbaix Sector just south of the Franco-Belgian frontier. Then, in mid-April, it had been ordered several kilometres north again, to serve in the *Ypres Salient*, an area which was to prove to be one of the most lethal theatres of the entire *Great War*.



(Above right: *An aerial photograph, taken in July of 1915, which shows the shell of the medieval city of Ypres, an image entitled Ypres-la-Morte (Ypres the Dead) – By the end of the conflict there was little left standing. – from Illustration*)

*\*It was simply the ‘Canadian Division’ until the formation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division necessitated the amendment to its designation.*

The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion arrived at Sin-Jaan (*St-Jean*) in a north-eastern area of the *Ypres Salient* on April 16. Other units of the Canadian Division were still arriving days later when the German Army struck.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres saw the first use of gas by the Germans on the *Western Front*. That use was later to become an everyday event – employed by both sides - and, with the advent of protective measures such as advanced gas-masks, it was to prove no more dangerous than the rest of the military arsenals of the warring nations. But on this first occasion, to troops without means to combat it, the yellow-green cloud of chlorine proved overwhelming.



(Right above: *The very first protection against gas was to urinate on a handkerchief which was then held over the nose and mouth. However, all the armies were soon producing gas-masks, some of the first of which are seen here being tested by Scottish troops. – from either Illustration or Le Miroir*)

On April 22, at five o'clock in the afternoon, the Germans released chlorine gas in front of the French colonial troop positions at the northern extreme of the *Ypres Salient*. The gas reportedly caused six-thousand casualties in a very short space of time and provoked a rout of the stricken defenders. The newly-arrived Canadians, in the line just to the right, not affected to the same degree, were then to endeavour to fill the void left by the retreating French troops and to forestall a German break-through.



(Right above: *The Memorial to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division – the Brooding Soldier - just to the south of the village of Langemark stands where the Canadians withstood the German attack at Ypres (today Ieper) in April of 1915. – photograph from 2010*)

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> the situation was relatively stable and the positions in the vicinity of Sint-Juliaan held until the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> when a retirement became necessary due to heavy and accurate enemy artillery fire. At times there had been gaps in the British and Canadian defensive lines but, fortunately, either the Germans were unaware of how close they were to a breakthrough, or else they did not have the means to exploit the situation. The moment passed and the Canadians and British began to close the gaps.

Although ground was lost during *Second Ypres*, it is generally recognized that the Canadians' contribution to the battle was critical to averting disaster. By the end of May – and of *Second Ypres* – the *Ypres Salient* was still in Allied hands, as it was to be for the remainder of the Great War\*.



(Right: *Entitled: Bombardement d'Ypres, le 5 juillet 1915 – from Illustration*)

*\*The decision to hold the Salient was principally a political one as most of Belgium was under German occupation for all except four months of the entire war. Four major battles and myriad minor – but no less bitterly-contested – engagements were fought in the area of Ypres from October of 1914 to October of 1918.*

(Right above: *Entitled: Bombardement d'Ypres, le 5 juillet 1915 – from Illustration*)

Then in the month of May the Canadian Division had moved further south over the Franco-Belgian border to serve at Festubert and then Givenchy. These were actions fought to support a larger operation by French troops a little further down the line. The British plan of attack was less than imaginative and much of what remained of the small pre-War professional Army was shot to pieces in frontal attacks.



The Canadian and Indian – the Meerut Division - troops hardly fared better, each contingent incurring over two-thousand casualties before the offensive drew to a close.

(Right above: *A one-time officer in the Indian Army pays his respects to the fallen at the Indian Memorial at Neuve-Chapelle. – photograph from 2010(?)*)

On the final day of May the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been relieved from its posting at Festubert and, on the first day of June, had moved into bivouacs in fields at Hinges; in a few days' time, on June 6, it was ordered further south to Givenchy-les-la-Bassée\*, a small village not far distant south of Festubert.

Ordered into the forward trenches on two occasions during that month to support British efforts – and with the same results from repeating the same mistakes, although perhaps on a smaller scale – on or about June 24 the Canadian Division was to retire from the area.

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***\*Since the place is oft-times referred to simply as Givenchy it is worthwhile knowing that there are two other Givenchys in the region: Givenchy-le-Noble, to the west of Arras, and Givenchy-en-Gohelle, a village which lies in the shadow of a crest of land which dominates the Douai Plain: Vimy Ridge.***

The French effort – using the same tactics - was likewise to be a failure but on an even larger scale; it cost them just over one hundred-thousand *killed, wounded and missing*.

As a part of that withdrawal from Givenchy, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was to march in quick succession to billets in or near the communities of Essars, La Becque and Steenwerck, not far removed from the larger centre of Bailleul. From there it was to move towards and into Belgium, to the *Ploegsteert Sector*, just across the frontier.

Having reached the Ploegsteert area, there the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion remained – as did the entire Canadian Division. In the following months it came to be well-acquainted with the Franco-Belgian area between Armentières in the east – any further east would have been in German-occupied territory – Bailleul in the west, and Messines in the north; given the route marches enumerated in the War Diary and the itineraries used, it would have been surprising had it been otherwise.



***(Right above: Some of the farmland in the area of Messines, a mine crater from the time of the 1917 British offensive in the foreground – photograph from 2014)***

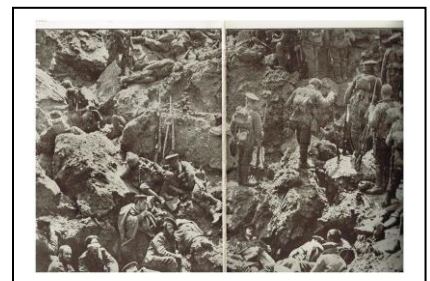
It was in that same sector, at Plus Douce Farm, that the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was posted on September 4, the day on which Private Carter’s re-enforcement draft arrived. However, as Plus Douce Farm was in the forward area, it was – according to the Battalion War Diary - to the transport lines that the contingent reported *to duty*

\* \* \* \* \*

In early April of 1916 – thus seven months after Private Carter had reported *to duty* to the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Plus Douce Farm on September 4 of 1915 - the newly-arrived 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division\* underwent its baptism of fire during a major action. It was at a place named St-Éloi – just north of the Ploegsteert Sector - where, at the end of March, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the British had detonated a series of mines under the German lines and then followed up with an infantry assault. Troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division were to follow up on the presumed British success, to hold and consolidate the newly-won territory.

***\*It had dis-embarked in France in September of 1915.***

However, the damage done to the terrain by the explosions, the putrid weather which turned the newly-created craters into ponds and the earth into a quagmire, and a resolute German defence greeted the newcomers who took over from the by-then exhausted British on April 5-6. Two weeks later the Germans had won back the lost territory and had inflicted severe losses on the Canadians.





**(Preceding page: *An purported attack in the aftermath of the exploding of a mine under enemy lines, possibly at St-Éloi – from Illustration*)**

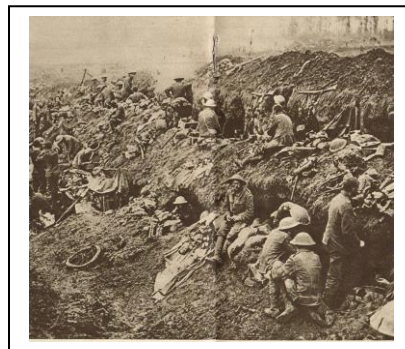
However, the Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> Division - and thus the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and therefore Private Carter – were not called upon to serve in this engagement, although they were certainly close enough to be aware of it. But he, the unit, and the Division, were busy elsewhere: they were moving from the *Ploegsteert Sector* back to the *Ypres Salient*, to an area just south of the city itself. The Battalion War Diary entries of the time show that overnight, life in the trenches was suddenly to become more exciting.

It was to be a further two months after this posting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division into the *Ypres Salient*, before the Germans once more were to pass to the offensive\*.

*\*In fact the brunt of this fighting was to fall upon the troops of the also newly-arrived Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> Division which had been in Belgium only since December of 1915. However, such was the gravity of the situation that units other than those of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division were to be called upon for support.*

Meanwhile, in the interim, for Private Carter and his comrades-in-arms, except for a nine-day period of leave that he was granted from May 10 to May 19 – where he spent it is not recorded - life in the trenches\* went on as usual.

*\*During the Great War, British and Empire (later Commonwealth) battalions had their time more or less divided into three postings: in theory a week was to be spent in the front lines, at times little more than a few metres separating them from the enemy forward positions; a second week was then served in support positions, perhaps a hundred metres or so behind the front; the unit was then withdrawn into reserve – either Brigade, Divisional or Corps Reserve, the former nearest to the forward area, the latter the furthest away.*



*Of course, things were never as neat and tidy as set out in the preceding format and troops could find themselves in a position at times for weeks on end.*

**(Right above: *A photograph of Canadian troops in support positions somewhere on the Somme in the autumn of 1916, by that time equipped with steel helmets – from Illustration*)**

On June 2 of 1916 the Germans attacked the only high ground in the *Ypres Salient* which remained under British and Canadian control.

This was just to the south-east of the city of Ypres itself, the area including the village of *Hooge*, of *Sanctuary Wood*, *Hill 60*, *Maple Copse*, *Railway Dugouts* and also the promontory which has lent its name – in English, at least - to the action, *Mount Sorrel*.



(continued)

**(Preceding page: *The Canadian memorial which stands atop Mount Sorrel just to the south-west of the city of Ypres (today Ieper) whose spires and towers may be perceived in the distance.* – photograph from 1914)**

**The enemy, preceded by an intense barrage, overran the forward Canadian positions and for a while had breached the Canadian lines. However, the Germans were unable to exploit their success and the Canadians were able to patch up their defences.**

**The Commander of the Canadian Corps, Sir Julian Byng, reacted by organizing a counter-attack on the following day, an assault intended to, at a minimum, recapture the lost ground. Badly organized, the operation was a dismal failure, many of the intended attacks never went in – those that did went in piecemeal and the assaulting troops were cut to pieces - the enemy remained where he was and the Canadians were left to count an extremely heavy casualty list.**



**(Right above: *Remnants of Canadian trenches dating from 1915-1916 at Sanctuary Wood* – photograph from 2010)**

**In the meanwhile, Private Carter's 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been seconded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division to re-enforce it, and to play a role in that counter-attack of June 3. On the evening of June 2 the unit moved towards Zillebeke. As it transpired, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was not to be directly involved after all. But despite not engaging the enemy, the Battalion incurred some fifty casualties during those days, mostly due to enemy artillery.**



**(Right above: *Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) today contains twenty-four hundred fifty-nine burials and commemorations* – photograph from 2014)**

**On June 7 the unit was pulled back once again, marching to the vicinity of Zillebeke, and from there being bussed further away again, to a camp in the direction of Poperinghe. There Private Carter and his comrades-in-arms were to remain until June 11. During that day a number of lectures was given by the Battalion officers, presentations which the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diarist summed up as: *On the night of June the 12<sup>th</sup> the Battalion will move forward to the trenches South of Maple Copse, preparatory to an assault.***



**(Right above: *Maple Copse, the scene of heavy fighting in June of 1916, and its cemetery wherein lie numerous Canadians* – photograph from 2014)**

**Later on, during the evening of that same day, Private Carter's Battalion marched forward to assembly points, relieving other formations as they arrived. The relief was completed by the following morning and the troops stayed where they were for the remainder of the day until darkness set in. At ten o'clock the Battalion's four companies moved forward again, into the support and forward positions facing the Germans.**



In place by midnight, the attackers were subjected to German artillery fire countering the Canadian barrage, and casualties were sustained. The troops went over the top at half-past one in the morning and, despite fierce opposition at times, the objectives of the day were secured by about seven o'clock that morning, some five hours later.

(Right: *Hill 60 a century after the great War, today preserved - as much as nature will allow - by the Belgian Government - photograph from 1915*)



The Battalion War Diarist has recorded each name of the almost three-hundred fifty casualties incurred on June 13. Private Carter's name is among them; but next to his name is neither the word *killed*, nor *wounded*, nor *missing*. It reports instead... *illness*.

In these early days of the *Great War*, soldiers, officers, administrators and politicians still had a great deal to learn about this new industrialized warfare organized on a scale never before seen, perhaps never before imagined. More efficient ways to kill larger and ever-larger numbers of men were being invented, produced and then employed in ever-increasing numbers.

Artillery was a case in point. Apart from the *killed*, *wounded* and *missing* there were other unseen consequences: some officers continued to refer to them simply as cowardice or as *lack of moral fibre*; until at least 1917, some doctors were still diagnosing the problems as NYD – Not Yet Determined (as they sometimes also did for venereal problems); only latterly – and slowly - did a general recognition and overall acceptance of a new phenomenon come to pass: *shell shock*.

Private Carter was admitted into the 26<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on June 13, the day of the Canadian attack – although according to the Medical Report (see below) he had already been injured two days previously. From there he was transferred six days later, on June 19, to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau, adjacent to the port of Boulogne. Four days later again he was placed on board His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Newhaven* for the short crossing back to the United Kingdom.



(Right above: *The image of a pre-War Newhaven is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

Upon arrival in Folkestone on the same June 23, Private Carter was then processed through the Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre there – likely only on paper as the CCAC was a bureaucratic rather than a medical concern - before being forwarded physically to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in London, for further treatment.

Remaining in care there in London for nine days, he was then reported as transferred to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital at Bromley on July 2 whence comes the following casualty report a propos his recent treatment history, a document which likely accompanied him there – given the date - from his previous hospital:

***Bromley – Shell shock 1/7/16 - On June 11<sup>th</sup> was in trenches in Sanctuary Wood and was blown out of the trench by a shell was unconscious for some time & remembers nothing until he arrived at the dressing station. Was in DRS for four days taken to Boulogne for four days and then to National OP hosp for 9 days***

***Present Condition***

***Head aches & has pain across eyes Sleeps poorly. Noise aggravates headache  
Pain in Rt leg***

***\*The reader will notice at least two discrepancies – unexplained - in the dates and/or day counts between the two accounts of the incidents. It may be, of course, that the dressing station was an auxiliary of the 26<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.***

Private Carter was then again moved, on this occasion – July 23 - to another Canadian Convalescent Care Hospital, this one at Woodcote Park, Epsom, south of London in the county of Surrey.

(Right: *The Military Plot in Epsom Cemetery wherein lies a single Newfoundlander, Albert George Duffett – photograph from 2016*)



His next stop was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Convalescent Depot where he arrived, on August 17, for a course of physio-therapy. In fact, it may be that Private Carter did not have far to travel, as Woodcote Park and the 2<sup>nd</sup> CCD appear to have been one and the same establishment. It is not quite clear, however, as to what the status of this place was in August of 1916, as the official War Diary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CCD records appears to commence only in that following October.

Private Carter is documented - at some time after his admission in August to the 2<sup>nd</sup> CCD but before November 20 of 1916 – as having been attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Corps Training Battalion at Shoreham in East Sussex. This seems likely since on that November 20 he was documented as having been *struck off strength* by the 1<sup>st</sup> CCTB, to be *taken on strength* by the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion – and proceeding to France – on the next day, the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Soon after arriving back on the Continent, Private Carter found himself once more at the Canadian Base Depot at Le Havre. Although by then again on the nominal roll of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, it was not until December 2 that he was despatched from the Base Depot to re-join his unit *in the field* which he is recorded in his personal files as having done three days later, on December 5\*.

***\*During the time of Private Carter's absence the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion had fought at First Somme (see below).***

The Battalion War Diary, on the other hand, records only that... *a draft of 160 NCO's and men allotted to this Battalion, arrived at the Transport on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and joined the Battalion on its arrival in billets at Camblineul, to the north-west of the city of Arras.*

\* \* \* \* \*

After the hospitalization of Private Carter, for the two months which succeeded the confrontation at Mount Sorrel, things reverted to the everyday routines of trench warfare. There was no concerted infantry action by either side, such activity being again limited to raids and patrols. However, this did not preclude a lengthy casualty list at times\*.

*\*For example, during the tour in the front lines of July 15 to 19 inclusive, the War Diarist noted fifty-seven killed, wounded and missing in action.*

During the month of August the Canadian Battalions were gradually withdrawn from the Ypres Salient and ordered to camps for training in what was termed *open warfare*. It appears that the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was one of the first to retire, leaving the forward area for Brigade Support positions on August 7, then three days later moving further to the rear area to begin that period of training.

Three weeks later again, on the night of August 27-28, the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion moved piecemeal to the railway station in the northern French centre of St-Omer. The unit entrained there at seven o'clock in the morning to be conveyed south to Conteville, a distance of about eighty kilometres, where it arrived some nine hours afterwards, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

From there it was to be yet a further eight kilometres – this time on foot – to where the billets awaited.

(Right: *Almost a century after the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion passed through it on the way to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Somme, the once-splendid railway station in St-Omer is today in dire need of renovation – photograph from 2015*)



For the following four days the personnel of the Battalion marched to the south-east, ending their trek at billets in the proximity of the provincial town of Albert on September 1. The unit then moved forward into support positions at La Boisselle on the very next day.

(Right above: *The Lochnagar Crater caused by the mine – claimed by some to be the largest man-made explosion in history up until that date – detonated at La Boisselle – photograph from 2011(?)*)



*\*La Boisselle was the site where, on the morning of the attack of July 1 of that same 1916, the British detonated the largest of the nineteen mines that they had excavated and set under the German lines. The crater, now a century old, is still impressive, even today.*

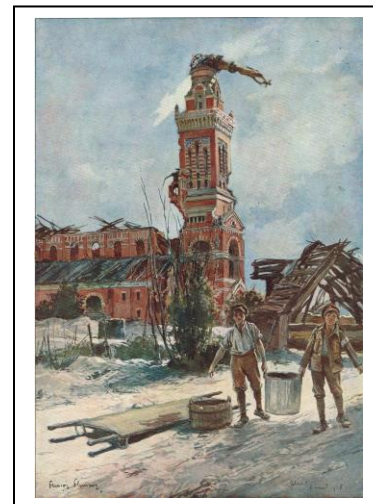
By that September of 1916, the *First Battle of the Somme* had been ongoing for two months. It had begun with the disastrous attack of July 1, an assault costing the British Army fifty-seven thousand casualties – in the short space of only four hours - of which nineteen thousand dead.



(Right below: *Canadian soldiers working in Albert, the already-damaged basilica in the background – from Illustration*)

On that first day of *1<sup>st</sup> Somme*, all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been troops from the British Isles, those exceptions being the two-hundred men of the Bermuda Rifles serving in the Lincolnshire Regiment, and the eight-hundred personnel of the *1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment* which lost so heavily on that day at *Beaumont-Hamel*.

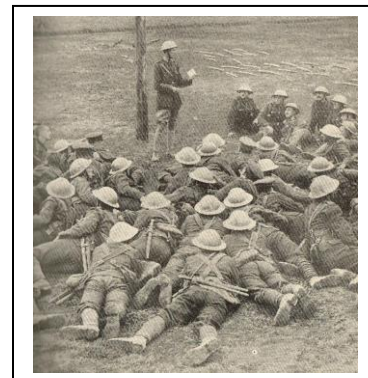
As the battle had progressed, other troops, from the Empire (*Commonwealth*), were brought in; at first it had been the *South African Brigade* (July 15), the *Australians and New Zealanders* (July 23) before the *Canadians* entered the fray on August 30 to become part of a third general offensive. Their first major *collective* contribution was to be in the area of two villages, *Flers and Courcellette*.



But by that time the *13<sup>th</sup> Battalion* had been blooded – and bloodied – elsewhere.

(Right below: *An image purporting to be that of a Canadian officer giving instructions to those under his command prior to the attack at Flers-Courcellette (see below), September 1916. – from The War Illustrated*)

However, there had been, twelve days before that general attack by the *Canadians*, on September 3, an assault put in by the *13<sup>th</sup> Battalion*, not *Canadian*, but of the *Australian Imperial Force* at a place known as *Mouquet Farm*. Two Companies of the *13<sup>th</sup> Battalion*, 1 and 2, had been sent forward to assist in this operation at nine o'clock that morning.



The *13<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary* for September 3, 4 and 5 reads partially thus: *At 2.00p.m. No.3 Company... went forward and at 5.00 p.m. the remainder of the Battalion:-*

*Headquarters – Pozieres Wood*

*Nos 1 and 2 Companies advanced and held the positions 73 to No. 1, 93 to No. 2 and consolidated.*

*No. 1 Company, Bombing the German Communication, and No. 2 Company, repelling a German Attack...*

(Right: *The Canadian Memorial which stands by the side of the Albert-Bapaume Road near the village of Courcellette – photograph from 2015*)

*...During the whole of Sunday Night, the men were heavily shelled, but showed great courage and endurance (sic).*



(continued)

**Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. ...The heavy shelling continued the whole of the day, on the Front and Support Lines, the Battalion also suffered a heavy Counter Attack. We managed however to connect up 55 and 59 and make a fair trench...**

**1916 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. ...The heavy shelling continued again on both sides, during the whole of the day, our Artillery was very active with guns of all Calibres, and fired over about two shells for every German one...**

**Maybe not a major affair in the eyes of certain authorities, the action at Mouquet Farm on September 3 and 4 was to cost the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Battalion a total of three-hundred twenty-three casualties.**



**(Right above: *Burying Canadian dead on the Somme, likely at a casualty clearing station or a field ambulance – from Illustration or Le Miroir*)**

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion remained in the forward area until September 7, then in the town of Albert until the 9<sup>th</sup> when the unit was ordered on a march in stages to a Rest Area in the proximity of the community of Bonneville.**

**There at Bonneville for three days, it was then ordered to march back to Albert or, more precisely, to the large camp at nearby Brickfields (*La Briqueterie*). It encamped there on the 18<sup>th</sup>, three days after the Canadian general offensive of September 15 had begun.**

**It is not recorded how the private soldier of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion felt about this march to nowhere-in-particular and back, but the War Diarist of that time made the following entry: ...A halt was called for a short time at Warloy, and another longer halt was called for at a point not far from Senlis. These rests however were not appreciated much as it was too wet to sit down, the men were wet through and very weary, with standing with their heavy packs\*, although they sang and whistled throughout the march\*\*. ...The only member of the Battalion that seemed to thoroughly enjoy the hill climbing expedition was the Regimental Goat Pet (*the Pipers Goat*).**

**\*Perhaps the officers and troops were wearing the kilts that they had worn until the beginning of September when they had been allowed to wear shorts if they wished; it must be remembered that a single kilt is made from fifteen yards of woollen cloth – heavy when dry: extremely heavy when wet.**

**\*\*Apparently they were accompanied on the march not only by the pipers' goat, but by the pipers themselves, the pipe band marching second only to the Headquarters Detachment.**

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion took over positions in the front line on the night of September 23-24, relieving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Battalion near to the village of Courcelette. Shelled heavily but seemingly ineffectively, the unit remained there for only two days before retiring into support once more. It was then withdrawn into billets in Albert two days later again, on the 27<sup>th</sup> and further back to Warloy on the morrow.**

**(continued)**

**(Right below: After the fighting of Courcelette, lightly-wounded Canadian soldiers being administered first aid before being evacuated to the rear for further medical attention – from Le Miroir)**

Warloy, at about twelve kilometres distance from Albert, was where the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was stationed for a week; during that time it was involved in drills, parades, inspections, a bath for everyone in the unit, church, lectures, musketry and replacing worn equipment and clothing. At the end of those seven days it made that march once more to Albert and then, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, continued on to the camp at Brickfields.



The Battalion was now prepared for the upcoming offensive action to be undertaken by the Canadian Corps – in conjunction with the British 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps. The assault was to take place on October 8, on which day the objective of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was to be a German position designated in the War Diary entries as *Regina Trench*.

Unfortunately it appears that the appropriate page(s) of the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary is(are) missing. However, the Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade offers some information, albeit less detailed, on the day's happenings.

The attack went in on schedule after the accompanying barrage had been unleashed at ten minutes to five on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>.

The following are excerpts from the Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade War Diary:

**7.45 a.m. 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. states casualties exceedingly heavy.**

**9.15 a.m. Message... stating 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. stopped by German wire.**

**9.25 a.m. 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. report situation unchanged.**

**12.19 p.m. Message... ordering 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. to hold on to original position (jumping off line) and to try connect up in the evening with the left of the 16<sup>th</sup> Bn.**

**5.30 p.m. Message from 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. timed 2.25 pm. gives position of 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. Those who got into REGINA Trench were bombed towards the 16<sup>th</sup> Bn. Remainder were held up by barbed wire and were practically wiped out by M.G. fire.**



**6.00 p.m. 15<sup>th</sup> Bn. report at 3.45 p.m. that 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. called on 3 platoons of the reinforcing company of 15<sup>th</sup> Bn. and these are being replaced at dusk.**

**13<sup>th</sup> Bn. report barrage has slackened and otherwise situation unchanged.**

**On October 9 the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion held on in their former jumping off positions despite... heavy shelling for the greater part of the day... On the night of October 9-10 the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade retired... and the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion or what was left of it returned to the town of ALBERT to the billets previously occupied before going into the trenches.**

**(continued)**



(Preceding page: *Regina Trench Cemetery and some of the area surrounding it which was finally wrested from the Germans by Canadian troops on November 11, 1916 – photograph from 2014*)

The Battalion War Diarist entered the figure of some three-hundred casualties\* for the day of October 8 alone.

*\*On the entries of days following he also notes imprecise numbers of those originally reported as ‘missing’ who, by then, were reporting back to duty with the unit.*

(Right: *Wounded troops being evacuated in hand-carts from the forward area during the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Somme – from Le Miroir or Illustration*)



On October 11, 1916, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*Royal Highlanders of Canada*) began their march away from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Somme. Passing to the west – always on foot – the northwards by a circuitous route behind the city of Arras and then beyond, the unit arrived in a sector further north up the line, on this occasion in the general area of the mining centre of Lens.



More precisely, the personnel – likely a little fatigued by then - found themselves relieving the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment in trenches at Cabaret and Souchez. The date was October 27.

Some six weeks following, Private Carter was reporting back to duty with his Battalion.

(Right above: *The village of Souchez already looked like this in 1915 when the French passed control of the area over to the British. – from Le Miroir*)

\* \* \* \* \*

Cambligneul was behind the lines and the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in reserve at the time of his return. Private Carter and the other personnel were therefore undergoing a daily diet of activities such as... *Squad Drill, Respirator Drill, Company Drill, Lecture to Officers, Bayonet Fighting, Musketry, Lecture by Coy (Company) Officers, and a lecture to NCOs (Battalion War Diary) – all of this to be consumed on a single day, December 6.*

Towards the middle of the month this type of activity was superseded by attachment to working-parties which were to undertake such tasks as carrying, repairing trenches, wiring and constructing sanitation facilities. All this, however, was to come to an end on December 17 when the Battalion moved forward to the front.



(continued)

(Preceding page: *A Canadian carrying-party – some of the work done by troops when in support and reserve – on the Lens front during the summer of 1917 – from Le Miroir*)

The winter of 1916-1917 was one of that everyday grind of life in and out of the trenches. There was to be little if any concerted infantry activity apart from the constant patrolling and the occasional raids by both sides. This latter activity was encouraged by the High Command who felt them to be a morale booster which also served to keep the troops in the right offensive frame of mind – in general, the troops who were ordered to carry them out loathed these operations.



(Right above: *A detachment of Canadian troops going forward during the winter of 1916-1917 – from Illustration*)

The month of January for Private Carter's Battalion comprised the usual routine of front, support, then reserve, with the attention of the German artillery during this period particularly noted by the War Diarist. What he *failed* to note was that, on January 15-16, Private Carter had been transferred to the Battalion Machine-Gun Company.

By this stage of the war those in authority were beginning to not only recognize the value of, the potential of and, indeed, the necessity of the machine-gun, but they were now devising newer and more efficient methods of exploiting them. The number of these weapons was increasing dramatically and the organization of the personnel operating them was evolving rapidly as well.

In early 1917, each Canadian Infantry Division was now to have one additional machine-gun company, thus bringing its strength up to four: to this end, Private Carter was transferred out of his infantry formation and *taken on strength* of the about-to-be-formed 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Machine-Gun Company. This new company was to be attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division.

On January 17 the recruits for the four newly-proposed formations – one for each Canadian Division - were attached to the Canadian Corps Machine-Gun School at Floringhem, even further behind the front to the north-west of Arras. A month later, on February 21, after an inspection by the Canadian Corps Commander, Sir Julian Byng, the School at Floringhem was closed and the 13<sup>th</sup> MGC was moved to Barlin, several kilometres to the south-east for *Advanced Training*.

These exercises continued at various venues until the end of the month of March when the machine-gunners were sent forward to the front area to experience conditions under fire\*... and to prepare for the now-imminent events of that spring.

*\*Some of them were, of course, novices to active service.*

On April 9 of 1917 the British Army launched an offensive in the area to the north of *the Somme* battlefields; this was the so-called *Battle of Arras* intended to support a French effort elsewhere.

In terms of the daily count of casualties, some four thousand per day, it was to be the most expensive operation of the War for the British, one of the few positive episodes being the Canadian assault of Vimy Ridge on the opening day of the battle, Easter Monday.

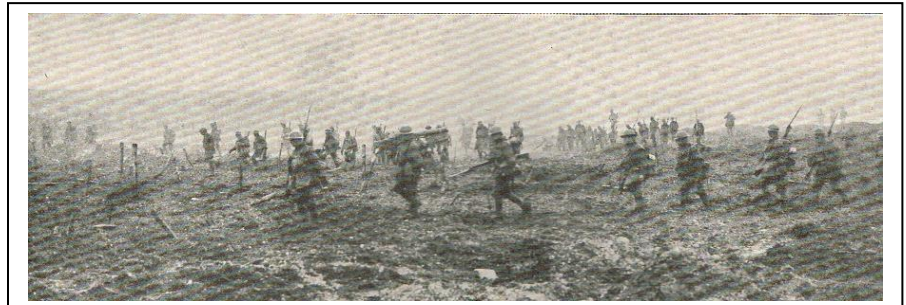
While the British campaign proved to be an overall disappointment, the French offensive was to be a disaster.

(Right: *The Canadian National Memorial which, since 1936, stands on Vimy Ridge – photograph from 2010*)



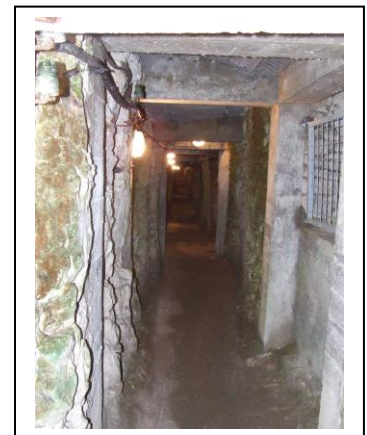
On that April 9, in driving snow, the four Canadian Divisions, for the first time acting as a single, autonomous entity, stormed the slope of Vimy Ridge, by the end of the next day having cleared it almost entirely of its German occupants.

(Right: *Canadian troops of the 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Division equipped with all the paraphernalia of war on the advance across No-Man's-Land during the attack at Vimy Ridge on either April 9 or 10 of 1917 - from Illustration*)



(Right: *One of the few remaining galleries – Grange Tunnel - still open to the public at Vimy one hundred years later – photograph from 2008(?)*)

The War Diary entry of the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Machine-Gun Company for that April 9 reads partially as follows: *At 5.30a.m. (Zero hour) for attack of Canadian Corps on VIMY RIDGE, the two Batteries of the unit opened fire, establishing a Creeping Barrage to cover the advance of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cadn Infy Bgde on previously arranged targets, ranging from points near enemy front line to the final Barrage 500 yds East of Lens-Arras Road. Each gun fired 3,300 Rounds.*



*At 6.45 our batteries ceased fire and advanced with all Equipment and 3,000 rounds per gun to new positions 1200 yds SW of THELUS and 200 yds East of Lens-Arras Road... Both Batteries were in above stated position at 10.00 AM and Barrage fire was again established to support advance of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadn Infy Bgde...*



*The final Barrage was laid down on line 200 yds West of FARBUS WOOD, our guns fired from these positions until 12.50 P.M. when fire was ceased, each gun having fired 3,000 rounds.*

(continued)



(Preceding page: *Canadians under shell-fire occupy the third line of trenches on Vimy Ridge: the fighting of the next few days was fought under the same conditions. – from Illustration*)

From that time on, throughout the remainder of the day and into the night, the machine guns of the 13<sup>th</sup> CMGC fired at specific targets as the need arose and when called upon to do so by units in need of their support.

After continuing this support work until April 12, the unit was thereupon relieved and fell back into Divisional Reserve some fifteen hundred metres behind the front area. Private Carter remained in the area as the 13<sup>th</sup> CMGC was shuttled into and out of the sector while the Canadians resisted enemy counter-attacks and consolidated their new positions.

After the official conclusion of the five-week *Battle of Arras*, the Canadians were ordered posted not far to the north of where they had been serving, to the mining area of the city of Lens and other communities.

The British High Command had by this time decided to undertake a summer offensive in the *Ypres Salient*, Belgium. Thus, in order to divert German attention – and also his reserves - from this area, it had also ordered operations to take place at the sector of the front running north-south from Béthune to Lens.



The Canadians were to be a major contributor to this effort.

(Right above: *An example of the conditions under which the troops were ordered to fight in the area of Lens during the summer of 1917 – from Miroir*)

During this summer campaign Private Carter and his Company were in the area of the mining village of Loos and close to Fosse No. 2 (*Pit Number 2*). August 23 was a day on which the 13<sup>th</sup> CMGC\* was manœuvring its guns into new positions and likely attracting the attention of enemy artillery spotters while doing so.



(Right above: *The remnants of the village of Loos, this photograph taken before September of 1915, two years prior to Private Carter's presence there: The mine-lift structure in the centre background became known as Tower Bridge. – from Le Miroir*)

Gas shells were sent over and Private Carter was evacuated to the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance at Noeux-les-Mines for medical attention to what was eventually considered to be a mild condition. One of fifty-four wounded admitted on that day – a *normal* one according to the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance War Diary - he was discharged from there back to *duty* on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

(continued)

*\*This incident was apparently reported by an officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division Machine-Gun Companies. It is also about this time that Private Carter's pay-roll notes some apparent attachment to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion (May 19 to October 29) and the 16<sup>th</sup> Machine-Gun Company (May 3 to August 7) but further details or verification of this are not to be found among his files.*

*His documents a propos the subsequent medical incident, however, still refer to the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Machine-Gun Company.*

Apparently August 24 was a busy day for the 13<sup>th</sup> CMGC; although it was still to be a further three days before the unit was withdrawn, August 24 appears to have been its final day of serious action - if the amount of ammunition expended is any indication: thirty-four thousand rounds.



*(Right: Canadian troops in training with their newly-acquired Vickers medium machine guns – from Le Miroir)*

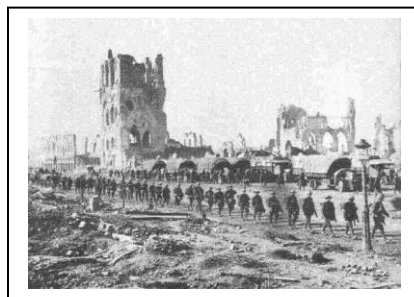
During the month of September, 1917, the Company served in the forward area for some seventeen days before retiring again on September 24, on this occasion into Divisional Reserve and then into Corps Reserve\*.

Little if any infantry activity ensued – apart from the constant patrolling by both sides – and the Company War Diary entries refer mostly to artillery and to frequent enemy aeroplane intrusions.

*\*By this time the Canadian Machine-Gun Corps had been organized, as of April 16 of 1917, only one week after the attack at Vimy Ridge. However, it was not until September 8 that the machine-gun companies were detached from the brigades that they had been operating with until then, to be transformed into the companies of the different divisional machine gun battalions.*

*While now operating independently under a new chain of command, it would seem that for a while the companies retained their previous identities and designations; it appears for example – from a comparison of the respective war diaries – that the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and the 13<sup>th</sup> CMGC both moved north at the same time and to the same place, although their tours of service at Passchendaele seem then to have differed.*

The Lens-Béthune campaign having been ordered drawn to a close at the end of August\*, it was to be only some six weeks afterwards that the Canadians were ordered to join the ongoing battle in Belgium, to the north-east of Ypres. Officially designated the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, taking that name from a small village on a ridge that – ostensibly - was one of the British Army's objectives.



*(Right above: Troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration)*

***\*The Canadians apparently expected, and had planned, further action in the area but the ongoing Battle of Passchendaele was not proceeding according to expectations and the British were running out of re-enforcements. The Canadians and the Anzacs were to be asked to provide the necessary man-power.***

While some Canadian forces were in the area of the *Ypres Salient* by the middle of October, Private Carter's unit was only then finishing a further tour in the Lens Sector. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month it was pulled back once more into Divisional Reserve and was not to make its first move northward until six days later – on foot. Two days later again it marched into billets in the northern French community of Hondeghem where the Company trained for another week, until October 30.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> busses were taken across the Franco-Belgian border towards Ypres from where the unit marched to Camp X. They apparently incurred no casualties en route despite the fact that... *a squadron of enemy aeroplanes dropped about 25 bombs in the vicinity of our encampment at about 3.00 p.m.*

(Right: *Somewhere, perhaps anywhere, on the battlefield of Passchendaele during the autumn of 1917. – from Illustration*)



From the time that the Canadians entered the fray, it was they who shouldered a great deal of the burden. For the week of October 26 until November 3 it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Divisions which spearheaded the assault, with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions serving in reserve. From November 5 until the official end of the affair – November 10 - the reverse was true and it was to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division which finally entered the remnants of Passchendaele itself.



(Above right: *The monument to the sacrifice of the Canadians which stands in the south-eastern outskirts of the re-constructed village of Passchendaele (today Passendale) – photograph from 2010*)

The 13<sup>th</sup> CMGC was in action twice during the first two weeks of November: from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and then again from November 9 to 11. However, it appears that the Company was divided for these operations - the contingent to which Private Carter was attached not being identified.

(Right above: *Canadian troops – not having proper bathing facilities - performing their ablutions in the water collecting in a shell hole at some time during the last month of Passchendaele – from Le Miroir*)



In any case, it was after having retired from the front – likely on November 12 - that he was injured, having been... *hit by a motor-lorry (truck).*

(continued)



Private Carter was evacuated for treatment to a bruised right arm and elbow – a subsequent report uses the word *crushed* - at first to the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance at Ypres. From there he was forwarded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing Station at the Rémy Sidings in the outskirts of the Belgian town of Poperinghe.

Finally he was transported to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stationary Hospital in the large French centre of Abbeville where he is documented as having been admitted on November 13.

It was on board His Majesty's Australian Hospital Ship *Warilda* that on November 18 Private Carter made the cross-Channel passage back to the United Kingdom. Arriving in England, he was transported to the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital in the area of Manchester\* to be deemed *fit for transfer* on December 10 – to the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian General Hospital which had been established at Bank Meadow, Basingstoke.



(Right above: *The image of HMAS Warilda is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

The medical report of December 10, the day of Private Carter's admission into hospital at Basingstoke reads partially as follows: *Skin wound only. Healed quick... General Cond. Good... Motor lorry ran over him when coming out of line & knocked him down running over him running over his Rt. Forearm. Arm is swollen and tender... from elbow to forearm on Internal surface chiefly...*

He remained there at Basingstoke for thirty-five days before being shuttled to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Command Depot at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex, on January 15 of 1918 – *left arm still slightly swollen not painful*. There he was to remain – not ill enough to be hospitalized, nor fit enough to be returned to duty with his unit – performing menial tasks until such time as the authorities decided what to do with him.

There a further seven weeks were to pass before he was declared to be *fit for duty* and was ordered to the Canadian Machine-Gun Depot at Seaford, also in Sussex, for further training.

It was during the posting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> CCD that Private Carter fashioned a will – on February 20 - in which he left his everything to his aunt, Mrs. Mary Gillam, of South Branch in the District of St. George.



(Right above: *Seaford Cemetery and a part of the Military Plot therein where are to be found the graves of two Newfoundlanders – photograph from 2016*)

On or about April 12, Private Carter was despatched back to the Continent and was *taken on strength* by the Canadian Machine-Gun Corps Reserve Pool at Camiers, some fifteen kilometres south of Boulogne. On June 10, ten weeks later again, he was ordered to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Machine-Gun Corps to which formation he reported to *duty* on the following day.

(continued)

(Right below: *The railway station serving the French coastal area of Dannes-Camiers through which passed innumerable troops – sick and wounded as well as those on their way to the Western Front – during the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

But to which *Company* of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion he reported is not recorded; all three were apparently at the time serving in different postings, although all in an area to the north-west of the city of Arras.

(Right below: *The shattered city hall and belfry of Arras just after the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

The 1<sup>st</sup> CMG Battalion had been formed only three months prior as a result of the previously-mentioned re-organization of the machine-gun units of the Canadian Corps. It had first fought as a unit in that same month of March during the German spring offensive – *Michael* - of 1918\*. By the time of Private Carter's arrival, however, this crisis had been averted and the Allied High Command under Foch was planning a counter-offensive.

*\*Perhaps not many people realize how close the Germans came to victory in the spring of 1918. Having transferred the divisions no longer necessary on the Eastern Front because of the Russian withdrawal from the War, they delivered a massive attack, Operation 'Michael', launched on March 21. The main blow fell at the Somme in the area of, and also just to the south of, the battlefields of 1916, and it fell for the most part on the British and Commonwealth troops there.*

(Right above: *While the Germans did not attack Lens – in the Canadian Sector - in the spring of 1918, they bombarded it heavily during the time of their offensive in order to keep the British uncertain about their intentions and to oblige them to retain troops in the area. – from Le Miroir*)

The German advance continued for a month, petering out just in front of the city of Amiens. The ultimate failure of the offensive was the result of a combination of factors: British and Commonwealth resistance, fatigue, logistical problems and French co-operation with the British were the most significant.

*\*A second but lesser such offensive, 'Georgette', fell in northern France and in Belgium on April 9, in Flanders, the area where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was serving with the British 29<sup>th</sup> Division. It also was successful for a while, but petered out at the end of the month.*

(Right: *British troops on the retreat in Flanders in April of 1918 – from Illustration*)



To undertake the first step in Foch's plan – which was to strike in several theatres in close succession – the Canadian Corps was to be transferred from the Arras-Lens sectors to face the Germans to the east and south-east of the city of Amiens, in the area that they, the Germans, had occupied during *Operation Michael* only four months previously. And it was to be done in secret within the space of some twelve days.

(Right: *The gothic cathedral in the city of Amiens which the leading German troops had been able see on the western skyline in the spring of 1918 – photograph from 2007(?)*)



To accomplish this was to require a complex logistical program involving trains, motorized transport but, above all, several nights of marching in semi-circular routes around Amiens to the west, and then passing to the south before turning east to the assembly points.

Private Carter's unit was not to leave its positions on the Arras front until the night of August 1-2. The Battalion was carried – but also marched – westward as far as Ligny-St-Flochel where it arrived on August 4. There it turned southwards to be taken by train to the community of Beaucamp-le-Vieux, thirty kilometres to the west of Amiens.

Marching by night to avoid the possibility of being spotted by enemy aircraft, Private Carter and his comrades-in-arms left Beaucamp-le-Vieux, at different times on August 5 and 6. They travelled variously, on foot, by bus and train, then again on foot; it was to be two days of movement before the companies reached their destination in the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Almost immediately the Battalion began moving by various routes to its assembly point north of the Bois de Gentelles.

This campaign – later to become known as *the Hundred Days* and which was eventually to bring the Great War to a close – began at twenty minutes past four in the morning of August 8 by which time the 1<sup>st</sup> CMG Battalion was operating in the area of Caix and Rosières. The attack was a success and, as each successive objective was taken, the machine guns were moved forward to once again support the advancing Canadian infantry.



(Right above: *Canadian troops consolidating some of the gains made on August 8 – from Le Miroir*)

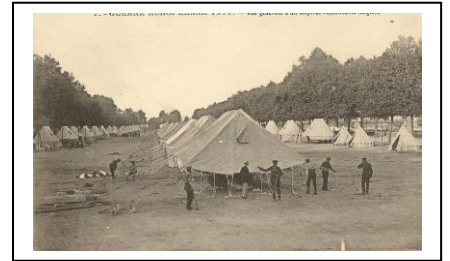
(Right: *A group of German prisoners, some serving here as stretcher-bearers, being taken to the rear after their capture by Canadian troops: a tank may be seen in the background – from Le Miroir*)



(continued)



It was on that first day, August 8, that Private Carter was wounded, having incurred multiple injuries from shell-fire to the areas of the thigh and neck; he was one of the total of forty-four casualties to be counted by the Battalion by the end of the day. Private Carter was evacuated to the 16<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and from there to the 47<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Crouy – a second report seems to cite the nearby 48<sup>th</sup> CCS – for treatment.



(Right above: a *British casualty clearing station* – the one pictured here under canvas for mobility if and when the necessity arose – being established somewhere in France during the early years of the War – from a vintage post-card)

The son of James Carter, former fisherman deceased September 4, 1911, and of Hannah (elsewhere *Ann*) Carter (née *Young*), deceased July 14, 1901, both of the District of St. George, Newfoundland, he was also step-brother to James, to Mary and to Elizabeth-Clarise, his father having married Amelia Anne Jesso in 1902.

Private Carter was reported as having *died of wounds* in the 47<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on August 10 of 1918\*.

*\*The original date of his death was recorded as August 11 but has been since amended.*

Hughie Carter had enlisted at the age of twenty-one years and two months: date of birth in Marches (also *Marchs*) Point, Newfoundland, February 28, 1894.

Private Hugh Carter was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to [criceadam@yahoo.ca](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – January 27, 2023.