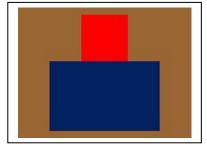


Private Eugene Clarke (also found as *Clark*) (Number 743088) of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*), Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery: Grave reference IX.C.16.

(Right: The image of the shoulder-patch of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (New Brunswick) is from the Wikipedia Web-site.)



His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a clerk, Eugene Clarke is *possibly* the young man to be found on the March 21, 1911, passenger list of the SS *Bruce*. The vessel crossed on that day from Port aux Basques in the Dominion of Newfoundland to Louisburg in Cape Breton, carrying a certain *Eug Clarke* on his way to Sydney, there to work as a labourer. (However, there is no confirmation that this is the Eugene Clarke of the present entry.)

On March 22\* of 1916, Eugene Clarke presented himself for enlistment in Saint John, New Brunswick – likely at the local Barrack Green Armoury - for medical examination. He then attested ten days later, on April 1.

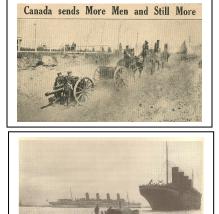
\*March 22 is the first day on which he is recorded as having received remuneration for his services from the Canadian Army; Private Clarke is also reported on the same pay records as having been taken on strength by the 115<sup>th</sup> Battalion on that date.

Five days later again, on April 6, the formalities of his enlistment were brought to a conclusion by the Commanding Officer of the 115<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel F.V. Wedderburn, who on that date 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 115<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*) had been authorized only in the month of December of 1915. It had recruited throughout New Brunswick and mobilized in St. John where, being headquartered there, it was to train in the Barrack Green Armoury. However, some of the Battalion's latter training was apparently done at the Valcartier Mobilization Camp in Québec as Private Clarke was reported on June 20 as having presented himself at the medical station there – there was no diagnosis recorded and he is simply documented as... *No admission*.

(Right: The Camp at Valcartier. In 1914, the main Army Camp in Canada was at Petawawa. However, its location in Ontario – and away from the Great Lakes – made it impractical for the despatch of troops overseas. Valcartier was apparently built within weeks after the Declaration of War. – photograph from The War Illustrated, from a later period of the War)

The 115<sup>th</sup> Battalion sailed for the United Kingdom on July 24 of 1916, the personnel of the unit having embarked in Halifax harbour on the previous day. The vessel that carried the Battalion overseas was to become known as *the Old Lady*; she was the requisitioned *White Star* liner *Olympic*, sister ship to *Britannic* – to be sunk later that year in the Mediterranean by a mine – and to the ill-starred *Titanic*.



(Right above: *His Majesty's Transport Olympic on the right lies at anchor along with HM Hospital Ship Aquitania, centre, at Mudros Bay in the autumn of 1915.* – from a photograph from the *Imperial War Museum, London*)

The ship docked in the English west-coast port of Liverpool a week later, on July 31, disembarking not only the 115<sup>th</sup>, but also the 103<sup>rd</sup>, the 109<sup>th</sup>, the 112<sup>th</sup> and the 116<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Canadian Infantry, plus the Number 1 Drafts of the 65<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Batteries of the Canadian Field Artillery and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Drafts of the 11<sup>th</sup> TD (Is this Transport Division?) of the Canadian Army Medical Corps.

The total number of military personnel having taken passage for the United Kingdom when other smaller units and miscellaneous personnel are added would have been close to six thousand five hundred.

From Liverpool, at least the 115<sup>th</sup> Battalion was transported to *Oxney Farm Military Camp* near to Borden and also close to the Canadian Camp Bramshott in the southern English county of Hampshire.

It was *Lance Corporal* Clarke\* who disembarked from *Olympic* – he is documented as having been appointed to that rank on July 23. What is *not* documented is the likely unimportant point of whether he received promotion before or after taking ship.

\*Unlike certain other soldiers appointed to an (acting) rank, (Acting) Lance Corporal Clarke apparently received the daily pay raise, in his case, five cents.

On August 17, Lance Corporal Clarke was seeking attention at a medical station at the Canadian establishment at *Camp Bramshott*. Whether this signifies that he was transported to there from not-far-distant *Oxney Farm Camp* or if, by that time, the 115<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been re-stationed to Bramshott, seems to be unrecorded. Once more, however, there is no diagnosis on his medical report and, once more, merely the comment... *No admission\**.



\*It may simply have been a post-quarantine check-up, several days in isolation something that all arrivals from Canada were supposed to undergo.

(Right above: *Royal Canadian Legion flags amongst others adorn the interior of St. Mary's Church in the English village of Bramshott.* – photograph from 2016)

From the time of its arrival in the United Kingdom until it was absorbed *officially* by the 112<sup>th</sup> Battalion at nearby Bramshott on October 21 of that same 1916, the 115<sup>th</sup> Battalion served as a supply of re-enforcements to other Canadian units already on the Continent. Thus it was possibly in expectation of such a transfer, that Lance Corporal Clarke was imposed upon to make a will; he did so on September 27 of that same 1916, leaving his all to his wife\*.

\*He had married Selina Bright – also from Newfoundland – in the Queen Square Methodist Church in New Brunswick on June 18 of 1913. The couple had two children, both sons: Arthur James, born November 25, 1914; and Eugene Ronald, born February 2, 1916.

## After her husband's death, Selina later married George Judson Appleby, the couple having a daughter, Hilda-Georgina, born in 1923.

In fact, Lance Corporal Clarke *was* one of those who was to be absorbed by the 112<sup>th</sup> Battalion, at least temporarily, and his file records the transfer as having been made on October 15. The 112<sup>th</sup> Battalion itself was *also* soon to be absorbed, officially on January 7 of the New Year, 1917, by other units, but his own personal files record Lance Corporal Clarke as being transferred, on a further occasion, to the 13<sup>th</sup> (*Reserve*) Battalion (*New Brunswick*), as late as February 2-3, 1917.

It was to be only some seven weeks later again that Lance Corporal Clarke reverted at his own request to the rank of private – his personal file says March 30, but his pay was that of a private by March 21. No reason is cited but it was not unknown for NCOs and for officers whose services were deemed necessary elsewhere – or, at times, whose family had the right connections to prevent their son's *active service* - to request a demotion in order to be despatched to the Continent and to the *Western Front*.

And despatched he was, proceeding overseas to France from Shoreham on April 3, 1917, to serve with the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*) to which unit he had just been transferred. Private Clarke was formally *taken on strength* by the 26<sup>th</sup> on the following day, April 4, when he arrived at the Canadian Base Depot – likely still at Le Havre.

It was either at the Base Depot that Private Clarke was to wait for a month before joining the parent unit of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, already *in the field*, or it was with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Entrenching Battalion\* which was being used as a reserve pool.



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

\*It had been found that it was more efficient to employ specialized formations – strong physique and experience in such work in civilian life – rather than regular battalions for the task of digging trenches and the like; thus the entrenching battalions came into being.

Held behind the line to be ready for duty wherever and whenever necessary, they were often used as units to which re-enforcements could be attached temporarily – and yet gainfully employed - until the moment was right for these drafts to report to the units to which they had been despatched.

(Right above: Canadian sappers building a road... 'in liberated territory' – from Le Miroir or Illustration)



Thus it was that Private Clarke was not to report to duty to the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*), *in the field* at Vimy Railway Embankment, until May 2. The Battalion War Diary entry for that day reads as follows: *Battalion in close support. Lively shelling all day especially towards evening when Hun puts over a number of gas shells and straafe (sic) gunners at Railway fairly heavily. Battn. carry up rations to Front Line for 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.* 

As the arrival of any re-enforcements was not noted by the War Diarist, it is more than likely that Private Clarke's Draft was held with the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion's non-combatant units behind the line, as from the Battalion War Diary entry (above) it would appear to have been neither the time nor the place for the new-comers to have been sent forward.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*) had been serving on the Continent since September of the year 1915. It was an element of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, itself a component of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Battalion. Since its arrival it had served in an area of the front to the south of the remnants of the medieval city of Ypres – in the direction of where the lines traversed the Franco-Belgian border - and also close to the lethal *Ypres Salient* itself.



(Right above: An artist's impression of the centre of Ypres in the year 1915: By the end of the Great War not much of what is shown here was to be left standing. - from Illustration)

In early April of the next year, 1916, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division had undergone its baptism of fire on a large scale. It was close to the village of St-Éloi where, at the end of March, the British had detonated a series of mines under the German lines and then followed this with an infantry assault. The newly-arrived Canadian formation was to follow up on the presumed British success, to hold and consolidate the newly-won territory.

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 bythen 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.

(Right above: An attack in the aftermath of the exploding of a mine under enemy lines – from Illustration)

The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, albeit a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division, had found itself playing a peripheral role in this action at St-Éloi: while other units were fighting up to their waists in water, the Battalion War Diarist could find time to comment on the weather for twenty-two days in a row.

Then some seven weeks later, on June 2, 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*, *Sanctuary Wood*, *Hill 60*, *Maple Copse*, *Railway Dugouts* and also the promontory which since that time has lent its name – in English, at least - to the action, *Mount Sorrel*.

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

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.

In the meanwhile, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was still in the area of St-Éloi, serving in the left sub-sector.

It was 'standing to' in the same place for the following four days. Thus it took no part in the counter-strike of the day following the attack, June 3, an operation which proved to be a costly disaster for the Canadians. In fact, on June 7, the Battalion found itself retiring to a camp in the rear rather than advancing towards the fighting.

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

On the next day, however, the unit was sent forward to relieve troops in support positions in the area of *Railway Dugouts*, just behind the places which had seen the heaviest fighting. There it remained until June 12 when, once more, it retired to the rear area.

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

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

By the time that the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion moved up to the front again on the next day, the action at *Mount Sorrel* and the vicinity was all but over. During the night of June 12-13 the Canadians had once again attacked and, thanks this time to better organization and a good artillery barrage, had retrieved almost all of the lost ground. Both sides were now back much where they had been eleven days earlier.













It should be added, however, that although units from the Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions saw action during those eleven days, it was the newly-arrived Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> Division on whose sector that the German onslaught fell, and it was that same 3<sup>rd</sup> Division which, logically, was to bear the brunt of the fighting.

Thus, after having played its roll at *Mount Sorrel*, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was relieved and withdrew to Camp "D" on June 20. There it was engaged in supplying working-parties for defence construction and carrying-parties for supply the troops manning the forward area. The Battalion was soon to be back in the front line itself and once more enduring the rigours and routines – and perils - of life in the trenches\*.

\*Durina the Great War, British and Empire (later Commonwealth) battalions had their time more or less equally 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, a hundred metres or so behind the front; the unit was then withdrawn into reserve - either Brigade, Divisional or Corps Reserve, the former nearest the forward area, the latter 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 certain 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, only months earlier having been equipped with those steel helmets and, less visible, British-made short Lee-Enfield Mark III Rifles – from Illustration)

The second half of the month of July, 1916, was spent at first in *Alberta Camp* and then further back again, at Brigade Reserve in the Vierstraat Sector. On the other hand, the Battalion was then posted back into the trenches for twenty-two of the first twenty-four days of August.

Having retired to Alberta Camp near Reninghelst on August 25, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion prepared to leave Belgium. The Regimental War Diarist noted in his entry of that day: All ranks in the best of spirits anticipating the move and eager to effect all details in the number of days training, SOMME OPERATIONS.

The training area for the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was at Tilques, back over the border in northern France and in the vicinity of the larger centre of St-Omer. It had required three successive days of marching for the unit to reach its billets at Éperlecques by August 28 before commencing training on the morrow. One of the first items on the agenda of the 29<sup>th</sup> was the replacement of the Canadian-made Ross rifles by its British counterpart, the short Lee-Enfield Mark III.



A week later the Battalion marched to the railway-station in Arcques to entrain for the journey south to Conteville. A day spent resting in billets was followed by five more on foot *not* resting, a march which terminated on September 11 at the Brickfields (*la Briqueterie*), a large military camp in close proximity to the provincial town of Albert.

(Preceding page: Canadian soldiers at work in Albert, the already-damaged basilica in the background – from Illustration)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Somme had by that time been ongoing for some two months. It had begun with the disastrous attack of July 1, an assault which was to cost the British Army fifty-seven thousand casualties – in the short span of only four hours - of which some nineteen thousand dead.

On that first day all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been from the British Isles, the exceptions having been 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 was to lose so heavily on that day.

As the Battle had progressed, 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 the two villages of Flers and Courcelette.



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

The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had arrived in the area four days prior to the attack at Flers-Courcelette – other units had reported there on only the day before – thus those interim days were spent in preparation. For the attack of September 15, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in reserve at the outset and, as such, did not move forward until five o'clock in the afternoon, twelve hours after the initial assault, at which time it re-enforced the efforts of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Battalions.

On the following day the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, according to its War Diary, was moved to the relative safety of a succession of shell holes, apparently staying there all day and... where the most intense shelling was endured by the battalion throughout this entire day.

(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)



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

On the 17<sup>th</sup> the unit was ordered to move once more and took up positions in a sunken road, to once again remain there all day. The only exception was that of 'B' Company which assisted in an attack delivered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion before also it moved to the sunken road. The attack in question... *met with considerable opposition and rifle and machine gun fire was very heavy.* 

On September 27 the Battalion had been ordered forward once again, on this occasion to play a role in *the Battle of Thiepval Ridge*, more specifically on the right flank, in the area of *Regina Trench*. The operation had proved to be a further costly failure for the price of one-hundred eighty-two more casualties.

(Right: Regina Trench Cemetery – Regina Trench was adjacent to Kenora Trench – and some of the ground on which the Canadian battalions fought in the autumn of 1916 – photograph from 2014)

After having delivered one final local attack at the beginning of the month, on October 10 the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been withdrawn from *the Somme*. It had marched west and then north so as to pass behind the city of Arras and beyond. It had thereupon been posted to a sector in the mining area of Lens, to the north of Arras.

There it was to stay until the spring of the following year, 1917.

(Right above: An aerial view of part of the city of Lens, before the Great War an important coal-mining centre: The photograph was taken in 1917, during the period when the Lens Sector was the responsibility of the Canadians. – 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.









(Preceding page: A detachment of Canadian troops going forward during the winter of 1916-1917 – from Illustration)

From April 2 until April 7 of 1917 the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been in intense training on ground that had been re-arranged so as to resemble the terrain to be attacked. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the unit moved forward – although *not* via those well-known tunnels, kilometres of which had been excavated for reasons of both surprise and safety.

On April 9, 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 of the entire operation being the Canadian assault of Vimy Ridge on the opening day of the battle, Easter Monday.

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

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

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

The Canadian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division was not responsible for the Ridge itself, thus the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been involved in the clearing of the community of Thélus, further down the slope and on the right-hand – the southerly - side of the attack. It had cleared its objective in thirty-two minutes and spent the rest of that April 9 consolidating the captured trenches against an expected German counter-attack.

(Right: Canadian troops of the 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. equipped or burdened with all of 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)







Having lost the *Ridge* and the attendant advantages of the high ground, the Germans retreated some three kilometres in front of the Canadians whose further offensives were less successful than that of Easter Monday; while some progress at times was made – at Arleux-en-Gohelle in April, for example - German counter-attacks often re-claimed ground from the British and Canadian troops – as at Fresnoy in early May.

And there was *always* a price to pay.

\* \* \* \* \*

And it was only a kilometre or so to the north of the positions which the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had captured during the first days of the offensive some three weeks before that the unit found itself still posted at the time that Private Clarke reported to the Battalion. Only two days later, on May 4, the unit was relieved and began to retire to reserve positions in the area of Neuville St-Vaast.



(Right above: 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 remainder of the month of May, then June, July and the first days of August were again spent in the daily grind of trench warfare. Apart from patrolling by both sides and those aforementioned raids there was little in the way of infantry action, most casualties still being due to enemy artillery aided and abetted by his snipers.

Towards the end of July and while in reserve at Bois des Bouvigney, the Battalion began to train for things to come.

Then, on August 14, at nine-thirty in the morning the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion began to move forward to its assembly area, picking up stores and munitions on the way.

Assembled by nine-thirty in the evening of the same day, those to be involved in the assault of the morrow moved into their attack positions, being recorded as in position there by two o'clock in the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

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 – as well as his reserves - from that 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.



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

One of the primary objectives was to be *Hill 70* in the outskirts of the mining centre of Lens.

(Right: Canadian troops under fire advancing across No-Man's Land in the Lens Sector in the summer of 1917 – from Le Miroir)

Those who expect *Hill 70* to be a precipitous and ominous elevation are to be surprised. It is hardly prominent in a countryside that is already flat, the highest points being the summits of slag heaps which date from the mining era of yesteryear. Yet it was high enough to be considered - by the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Corps, Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie – to be the key feature in the area, its capture more important than the city of Lens itself.

(Right: *This gentle slope rising to the left is, in fact, Hill 70. A monument to the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Infantry stands nearby in tribute.* – photograph from 1914)

Objectives were limited and had for the most part been achieved by the evening of August 15. Due to the dominance of *Hill 70* over the entire area, it was expected that the Germans would endeavour to retrieve it and so it proved; on the 16<sup>th</sup> several strong counter-attacks were launched against the Canadian positions, positions that by this time had been transformed into defensive strong-points.

These defences held and the Canadian artillery, which was employing newly-developed procedures, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. *Hill 70* remained in Canadian hands.

(Right: A Canadian 220 mm siege gun, here under camouflage nets in the Lens Sector, being prepared for action – from Le *Miroir*)

It was on August 16, during the engagement at Hill 70, that Private Clarke was wounded, incurring injuries inflicted by shell-fire to his left leg, left hip and left arm.

He was evacuated from the field and taken to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance in the community of Noeux-les-Mines. On that Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFA attended to sixteen sick and six-hundred ninety-four wounded.

(Right above: a British field ambulance, of a more permanent nature than some – from a vintage post-card)









The field ambulance was only a single link in a chain of medical treatment centres; by the end of that day, August 16, the dead had been buried and Private Clarke and the other surviving co-patients of the day had been moved further afield. On the morrow, August 17, three more sick and five-hundred eighteen newly-wounded were attended to in their turn.

Private Clarke was forwarded from Noeux-les-Mines by canal, on an ambulance barge, to the larger centre of St-Omer where he was admitted on August 18 into the 7<sup>th</sup> General Hospital which had been established there.

(Right: French wounded being placed onto a barge en route to hospital at an earlier period of the War – from Le Miroir)

It was not until September 23 that Private Clarke was once more transferred; on this occasion he was embarked onto the Belgian hospital ship *Jan Breydel* for the short cross-Channel passage back to the United Kingdom. Upon his arrival there he was taken to and admitted into the Brook War Hospital at Woolwich – on September 24 - where he was to occupy one of its thousand beds.





(Right: The photograph of a pre-War Jan Breydel is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.)

Although the first medical reports from Woolwich categorized his wounds as being... *severe*, on October 1 the duty-doctor or duty-nurse of the day nevertheless felt confident enough to write... *doing very well*.

The son of Abel Clarke, fisherman, and Louisa Clarke of Victoria, Carbonear, Newfoundland, husband of Selina Clarke (née *Bright*) – to whom he had allotted, as of November 1 of 1917, a monthly fifteen dollars from his pay - of 48, Bellevue Avenue, St. John, New Brunswick<sup>\*</sup>, and father of Arthur-James and Eugene-Ronald, he was also brother to Wilhelmina, to Edith, to Abel and to Mary-Louise.

\*The address recorded at the time of his enlistment was 15, St. Andrew's Street, Saint John, New Brunswick.

Private Clarke was reported as having *died of wounds* in Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, on October 5, 1917.

Eugene Clarke had enlisted at the *apparent age* of twenty-six years and eleven months: date of birth in Carbonear, Newfoundland, May 3, 1889.

Private Eugene Clarke was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).





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.* Last updated – January 27, 2023.