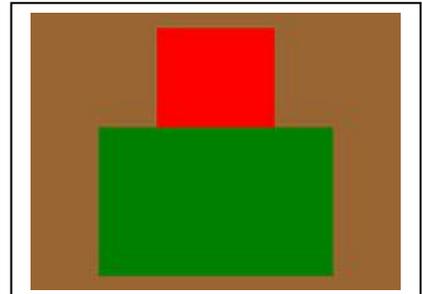




Lieutenant Hedley John Goodyear, MC, of the 102nd Battalion (Central Ontario), Canadian Expeditionary Corps, lies buried in Hillside Cemetery (Le Quesnel): Grave Reference II B 3*.

**Another Newfoundlander, Private Evan William Pugh, lies to Lieutenant Goodyear's immediate right.*

(continued)



(Preceding page: *The image of the shoulder-flash of the 102nd Battalion (Central Ontario) is from the Wikipedia web-site.*)

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a teacher at *Regal Road School* – today a Junior Public School - in Toronto, Hedley John Goodyear departed from the Dominion of Newfoundland on board the SS *Bruce* on August 2, 1909, sailing across the Cabot Strait from Port aux Basques to North Sydney, Nova Scotia. He then travelled to Toronto where he was to take up studies at Victoria University. There, by 1915, he had earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degrees – and was apparently resident at 13, Frederica Street in Toronto.

By the 28th day of March of 1916 he had already spent a year in the Canadian Officers Training Corps having served as a private soldier. However, when he attested on that date, his oath witnessed by a local justice of the peace, he did so as presumably as an officer – and therefore should not have enlisted – as he is recorded as having received an Imperial Commission only five days before, on March 23.

He nonetheless seems to have undergone the formalities of enlistment: he had presented himself for medical examination on March 27 at a Toronto Recruiting Depot and had been considered...*fit for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.*

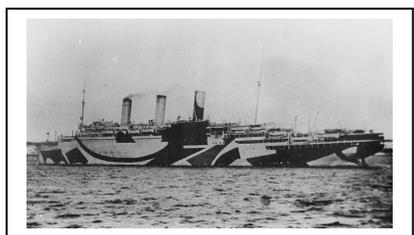
There is then a final document, dated on April 18, 1916, and signed by the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. E.W. Hagarty, of the 201st Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, who has declared – on paper – that...*Hedley John Goodyear...having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.*

Thus it has been difficult to ascertain at which rank Hedley John Goodyear entered military service. Subsequent to this however, all papers are from the files of Lieutenant Goodyear.

On February 25 of the following year, 1917, Lieutenant Goodyear was transferred to the 208th Overseas Battalion (*Canadian Irish*) since the 201st Battalion, with which he had by then served some eleven months, had been unable to raise the required number of recruits*. Some two months following, on April 26, after two further months of training at Exhibition Park, he was to board a train in Toronto and travel as far as the community of Truro, Nova Scotia, there to rest for the best part of two days before completing the journey to the east-coast port and city of Halifax on May 3. There the 208th Overseas Battalion embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Justicia* on the same May 3, 1917.

**The 201st Battalion was disbanded on July 12, 1918, having never left Canada. Most of its personnel did so, however, and served with other units on the Western Front.*

Lieutenant Goodyear's Battalion was not the only unit to take ship: also on board for passage to the United Kingdom on *Justicia* were the 182nd, 190th, 223rd and 245th Battalions of Canadian Infantry and also detachments of the 141st, 216th and 230th Battalions; there was as well the 25th Draft of Canadian Engineers. The vessel was surely carrying close to, if not over, her intended capacity of four-thousand troops.



(Right above: *The photograph of HMT Justicia in her war-time dazzle camouflage, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries. She was later torpedoed and sunk in July of 1918.*)

***Justicia* sailed on the same May 3 and, after an eleven-day Atlantic crossing, docked in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool on May 14. From dockside the 208th was transported by train to Westenhanger, in the area of the Canadian military complex of *Shorncliffe* in the English county of Kent. From there, upon its arrival on May 14, the Battalion personnel apparently marched overnight before then undergoing several days of quarantine at *Otterpool Camp*.**

The Battalion then was ordered to be transferred towards the end of that month to another Canadian encampment.

This next area had been established as Witley Camp, on the border of the counties of Surrey and Hampshire where the unit's twenty-seven officers and six-hundred fifty other ranks arrived on May 27*. Nor was it far from two other large Canadian establishments: *Bramshott* and *Bordon*.

****Apparently, troops arriving from Canada were – in theory – to be submitted to a period of twenty-eight days quarantine in case of infectious disease. However, it seems that this regulation was somewhat flexible, and whether or not the 208th Battalion on this occasion made up those sixteen missing days once it had arrived at Witley, appears not to be documented.***

By that time, however, Lieutenant Goodyear was under medical care, having been admitted into *Westcliffe Canadian Ear & Eye Hospital* at *Shorncliffe*, and there was diagnosed as suffering from tonsillitis. On the following day he was successfully operated upon for the removal thereof and, after recovery and discharge on June 8, was granted a two-week sick furlough until June 21.



At that time a Medical Board declared him to be... *fit for General Service* and – although his records seem to omit it – he then presumably returned *to duty* with his unit.

(Above 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: *St. Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Belfast: The 208th Battalion recruited many men of Irish extraction, particularly from Ulster – a part of which today forms Northern Ireland. Thus in July 16 of 1917 the Battalion Colours were taken to Belfast by five officers and forty other ranks, and deposited in St. Anne's Cathedral. However, Lieutenant Goodyear's participation is not confirmed. – photograph from 2014(?)*)



(continued)

On November 9 there was a reprieve for Lieutenant Goodyear from the routine of daily training; he and two fellow officers accompanied by fifty *other ranks* were despatched to London to represent the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in England at the annual Lord Mayor's Show. The Battalion War Diary offers no further details.

The 208th Battalion – temporarily attached to the 13th Canadian Infantry Brigade of the 5th Canadian Division* - continued to train at *Witley Camp* until early in 1918. By that time it had been decided to disband the unit and to transfer its personnel as re-enforcements to other battalions. This came about on January 11 of 1918, with 'A' and 'B' Companies – including Lieutenant Goodyear – being ordered to the 8th Canadian (Reserve) Battalion, stationed at the time at *Shorncliffe* where he had, of course, previously spent some two weeks – if one disregards time spent in hospital and on sick furlough. 'C' and 'D' Companies went elsewhere.

**Four Canadian Divisions eventually served on the Western Front. The 5th Division, stationed in the United Kingdom, was employed to re-enforce these formations.*

Shorncliffe, as already seen, was a large Canadian military complex which had been established in Kent, on the Dover Straits just to the south of the town and harbour of Folkestone. Through Folkestone it was that the majority of the troops arriving at *Shorncliffe* eventually passed on the way the Continent - and on to the *Western Front*. Only a mere fifteen days following his arrival there at the Canadian establishment, Lieutenant Goodyear was to do likewise.

On January 26 of 1918, he was recorded as having been *struck off strength* from the 8th Canadian (Reserve) Battalion and as also having been despatched *overseas*, on this occasion to France, a short distance across the English Channel. Lieutenant Goodyear almost certainly disembarked in Boulogne, on the French coast almost opposite Folkestone, from where he then was to make his way to the 4th (Divisional) Canadian Infantry Base Depot in the coastal town of Étapes* by the next day.



There he was *taken on strength* – at least on paper – by the 102nd Battalion (*Central Ontario*).

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

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



**The 4th Depot War Diary cites an influx of eighty-two arrivals – all ranks - on that January 27, but whether Lieutenant Goodyear had travelled as an officer with a re-enforcement draft or otherwise – officers also often travelled singly or in small parties – is not recorded.*

Lieutenant Goodyear was not to remain long at the 4th CIBD, being forwarded on either January 30 or 31 to the *Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp* at Calonne Ricouart some ninety kilometres to the east. Three or four days later again, on February 3, he was ordered to report *to duty* to his new unit at *Vancouver Camp*, Chateau de la Haie, behind the front and to the west of the city and mining-centre of Lens.

The 102nd Battalion War Diary records him as having done so in the company of two other officers on that same February 3.

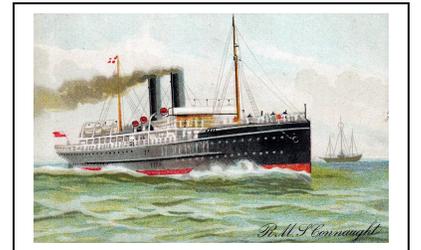
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The 102nd Battalion (*Central Ontario*) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force was a component of the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade, itself an element of the 4th Canadian Division.

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



This Division, the last of the four to arrive to serve on the Continent, had landed in France in mid-August of 1916 - the 102nd Battalion itself having disembarked at Le Havre on August 12 - to be immediately ordered into the *Kingdom of Belgium*, to that part of the forward area southward of Ypres and in the direction of where the Front traversed the Franco-Belgian frontier.



(Right: *The image of the Royal Mail Ship Connaught, on which the 102nd Battalion traversed the English Channel en route to active service on the Continent, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site. Connaught, only months later, while returning from Le Havre to Southampton on March 3, 1917, was torpedoed and sunk.*)

By August 15, 1916, the unit had, for the first time, taken its place in the forward area of the front in Belgium, near to the once-village of St-Éloi. By the 21st of the month the Battalion had already incurred its first thirty-one casualties, of which six had been fatalities.

The 102nd Battalion was to remain in the St-Éloi sub-Sector until October 17 when it had withdrawn to a *tented camp*. Then it and the entire Canadian 4th Division, following in the stead of the Canadian 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions, had received orders to prepare to migrate southwards into France. There it was to play a role in the ongoing British offensive of that summer and autumn of 1916, at *the Somme*.

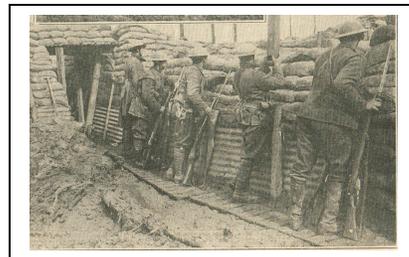


(Right above: *A typical British Army Camp during a winter period somewhere in France – from a vintage post-card*)

(continued)

From that *tented camp* it was to be on foot - a three-day march via Hazebrouck and Arques - that the 102nd Battalion would undertake the transfer to the vicinity of the northern French community of Tournehem-sur-la-Hem. There for the next eleven days the unit was to undergo intensive training and a great deal of marching, the War Diarist commenting... *the men getting into good shape.*

(Right above: *Canadian troops likely in trenches built for training purposes – they are too prim and proper to be the real thing when compared to the photograph on a following page – and here equipped with Short Lee-Enfield Mark III Rifles, during the late summer or early autumn of 1916 – from The War Illustrated*)

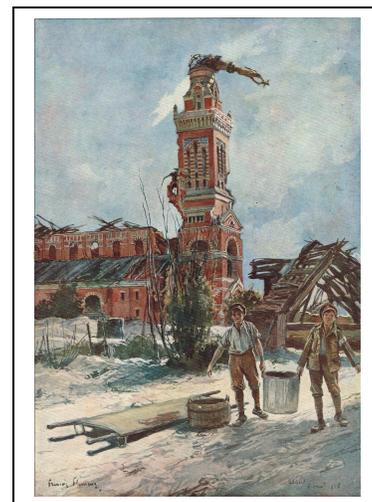


**The Canadian-produced Ross Rifle was an excellently-manufactured weapon; its accuracy and range were superior to that of many of its rivals, but on the battlefield it had not proved its worth. In the dirty conditions and when the necessity arose for its repeated use - and using mass-produced ammunition which at times was less than perfect - it would jam, leaving its user defenceless at a critical moment.*

By the summer of 1916 the Canadian units were exchanging it for the more reliable British Short Lee-Enfield Mark III, a rifle that was to ultimately serve around the globe until well after the Second World War.

The Battalion had subsequently entrained on October 3 for the provincial town of Doullens, some one-hundred twenty kilometres to the south in the French *Département de la Somme*. There it had arrived at five o'clock on the following morning, still with a march of several kilometres to go before reaching its billets in Gezaincourt. A further week of travelling on foot was to see it eventually arrive at *Tara Hill Camp*, on October 11, in the vicinity of the provincial town of Albert and well within range of the German artillery – as several casualties were to prove.

(Right: *Canadian soldiers at work carrying water in Albert, the already-damaged basilica prominent in the background – from Illustration*)



By that October of 1916, the *First Battle of the Somme* had already been ongoing for three months. It had begun with the disastrous attack of July 1, an assault having 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 of *First Somme*, all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been troops from the British Isles, those exceptions having been the two-hundred men of the Bermuda Rifles serving in the Lincolnshire Regiment, and the eight-hundred personnel of the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment which was to lose so heavily on that July 1 at a place called Beaumont-Hamel.

However, as the battle had progressed, other troops from the Empire (*Commonwealth*), were to be brought in; at first it had been the South African Brigade (July 15), then the Australians and New Zealanders (July 23) before the Canadians were to enter 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 Courcellette, on September 15, almost a full month before the arrival of the 102nd Battalion to the area.



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

After its arrival on October 11, and during those first days of service at *the Somme*, the 102nd Battalion was to remain at *Tara Hill Camp* where... *Organization work and preparations for attack were carried on in accordance with Bde. O.O. 15* (Brigade Operational Order 15) (From Battalion War Diary).

After a week, on October 18, the unit had been sent into the forward trenches; then, perhaps a little curiously, three of the four Companies had been withdrawn on the morning of the 20th, to return later that day. The fourth Company, upon the return of the others, had withdrawn in its turn. On the next day, October 21, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’ Companies were to attack the German positions of the *Regina Trench* system.

Excerpt from Battalion War Diary entry October 21, 1916: *At 12.06 pm “C” and “B” Companies forming the first wave and “D” Company the third & fourth, the Battalion took Regina Trench, with practically no opposition. A number of prisoners, both wounded and unwounded, were captured. Our casualties in attack numbered about 20 killed and 70 wounded... The three Companies consolidated their position and put out advanced posts, being heavily shelled during the night...*



(Right above: *Regina Trench Cemetery and some of the area surrounding it which was finally wrested from the Germans by Canadian troops in November of 1916 – photograph from 2014*)

Regina Trench would be re-captured by a German counter-attack on this occasion, and it was not to be until November 10-11 later that year that the position was to be definitively taken and held by Canadian troops. In fact, this aforementioned operation would be the next offensive infantry action in which the 102nd Battalion was to be involved - at a cost of ten *killed in action*, thirty-eight reported as *wounded*, and eight *missing in action*.



(continued)

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

That assault, a night attack, had taken place over two days, November 10 and 11; on the evening of the latter date the unit had been relieved and had retired to billets in Albert. There the 102nd Battalion was to remain for the best part of a week before having been ordered once more to the forward area.

It was not called upon to serve in any further major infantry action, although off-times the enemy guns and snipers were to cause further losses. The Battalion personnel also served as stretcher bearers – a not infrequent duty - on the occasions of attacks on enemy trenches by adjacent units, during which time, of course, the bearers ran the same dangers as did the attackers – and at times for longer periods.



(Right above: *A stretcher-bearer sets about his work, here likely in the aftermath of an infantry action – from Illustration*)

While the *First Battle of the Somme* officially came to a close on November 13-15 with the capture of the village of Beaumont – one of two communities which at the time comprised the Commune of Beaumont-Hamel* – by the 51st Highland Division, the 102nd Battalion remained in the trenches until November 23. The fighting, of course, had never stopped, but there was to be no further infantry activity apart from the occasional raid and the ever-present patrolling by both sides.

**This is the village which, at that time, was one of the two which comprised the Commune of Beaumont-Hamel. Today there is a third, Beaucourt.*

Having withdrawn from the front on that November 23, the 102nd Battalion had returned to billets in Albert and then, on the 26th, had marched westward, leaving behind it the theatre of *First Somme*. It had then swung to the north and, having passed to the west of Arras, continued beyond until it arrived at La Comté, some thirty kilometres to the north-west of that last-named city. There... *Good billets were provided against a prolonged stay here.*



(Right above: *The remnants of the Grande Place (Grand'Place) in Arras which had already been steadily bombarded for two years by the end of the year 1916 – from Illustration*)

The prolonged stay in La Comté was to last for sixteen days. The unit's sojourn *in the area*, however, was to be of a longer duration, a period which allowed Battalion personnel to adapt once more to the rigours and routines – as well as the perils - of daily life in the trenches*, of which the unit had enjoyed only a small taste of in Belgium in the months of August and September of the previous summer and autumn.

(continued)

****During 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, 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 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 the less-visible British-made Lee-Enfield Rifles – from Illustration)

The winter of 1916-1917, as with all the winters of the Great War, had then been a static affair; infantry action had once more been reduced to patrolling and to raids. Some of the latter, much encouraged by the High Command – apparently detested by the troops - were to be local affairs while others would be more complex and sometimes much more costly undertakings.

This entire period, of course, had proved relatively placid compared to what had gone on before, during the summer and autumn of 1916. While a continuous stream of casualties had still been incurred, mostly due to the enemy's guns and to his snipers, for the most part the field ambulances and the casualty clearing stations were to be kept busy by sickness and, perhaps surprisingly, even more so by dental work.



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

The 102nd Battalion had found itself stationed in the areas between the cities of Lens and Arras and, during the month of January, was to spend time in a sector facing a long slope, from the summit of which the occupier could overlook and dominate the *Douai Plain*.



At the time the occupier in question had been the German Army: the crest of that long slope was *Vimy Ridge*.

(Right above: The Douai Plain as seen from the north-eastern balustrade of the Canadian National Memorial on Vimy Ridge – photograph from 2014)

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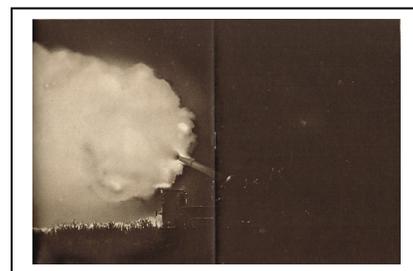
For the 102nd Battalion, this long winter of little activity had terminated on March 26 when it had marched from the forward area to *St. Lawrence Camp* at Chateau de la Haie. There the Battalion War Diarist apparently had found the... *Mud very bad and huts crowded, making very uncomfortable quarters.*

The unit having rested and then having cleaned up its temporary lodgings on March 27, the War Diarist on the following day had then recorded... *Preparation for forthcoming offensive begun; general scheme of operations outlined to officers and N.C.O's. The men were set to work on building and completing huts.*

By April 1 every individual soldier of the unit who was to be involved in the upcoming operation had been given a good idea of what was to be in the offing for him: *Ground was mapped out for attack and the Companies practised going over in waves, wearing the full equipment which they would be carrying on the day itself.* The training had continued on the following days despite the heavy snow which was falling.

By the night of April 8-9 the 102nd Battalion had moved into position while Battalion Headquarters had moved forward into the protection of *Cavalier Tunnel* to where... *in due course each Company reported that position had been taken and that everything was in readiness for zero hour.*

As the days had passed the artillery barrage had grown progressively heavier; on April 6, Good Friday, the War Diarist of another battalion was to describe it as...*drums.* By this time, of course, the Germans would have become aware that something was in the offing and their guns in their turn had been throwing retaliatory fire onto the Canadian positions - and their aircraft had been extremely busy*.



(Right above: *A heavy British artillery piece continues its deadly work during a night before the attack on Vimy Ridge. – from Illustration*)

**It ought to be noted that a great deal of the artillery used in the assault on Vimy Ridge was British and that a British Division – only a single Brigade employed on April 9 – also participated. Almost fifty per cent of the personnel who had been employed for that day were British, not to mention those whose contribution – such as those who dug the tunnels - allowed for it to happen.*

On April 9 of that 1917 the British Army had launched an offensive in the area to the north of *the Somme* battlefields; this was to be the so-called *Battle of Arras*, intended to support a French effort elsewhere. In terms of the count of casualties, some four thousand per day, it was to be the most expensive operations of the *Great War* for the British. One of its few positive episodes was to have been the Canadian assault of *Vimy Ridge* on the opening day of the battle, Easter Monday.

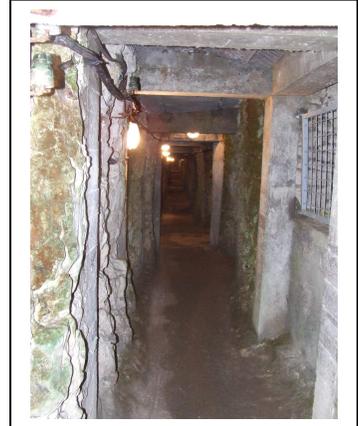


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While the British campaign would prove an overall disappointment, the French *Bataille du Chemin des Dames* was to be yet a further disaster.

(Preceding page: *The Canadian National Memorial which, since 1936, has stood on Vimy Ridge* – photograph from 2010)

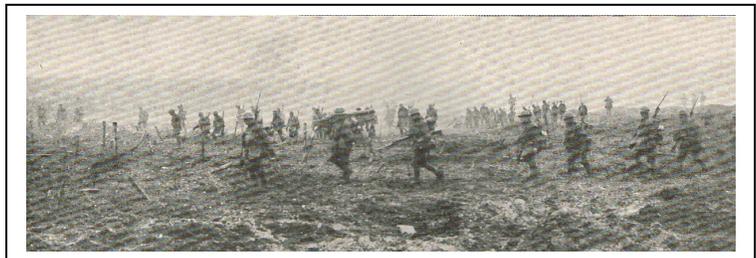
(Right: *One of the few remaining galleries – Grange Tunnel – which is still open to the public at Vimy one hundred years later* – photograph from 2008(?))



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

(Right below: *Canadian troops of either the 4th or 3rd Division, equipped – or burdened - 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* – official Canadian photograph from Illustration)

Excerpts from Battalion War Diary entry for April 9, 1917: 5.30 a.m. ZERO HOUR. Barrage opened. Within 5 minutes eye-witnesses from O.P.s* in CAVALIER reported that our men went over as one man and that their formation was perfect.



5.45 a.m. ...Lt. H.G. Dimsdale...wounded in hand and leg...called in at Hdqrs. on his way to the Dressing Station, he reported that the waves had passed through the wire without difficulty and had gained the enemy front trench.

6.00 a.m. Lt. H.M. Bennett...walking wounded...a prisoner with him...reported that the 2nd line of trenches had been success fully stormed.

7.40 a.m. Lieut. J. Robbins, another walking wounded, arrived with the news that the third line of enemy trenches had been won. By this time therefore, the 102nd Bn had gained its three objectives and it remained only for the positions to be consolidated**.



*Observation Posts

**The War Diary, apart from the successes, also reports set-backs during the day – and the inevitable casualties. However, by the evening most of the obstacles had been overcome.

(Right above: *German prisoners being escorted to the rear by Canadian troops during the attack on Vimy Ridge* – from Illustration)

(continued)

By the evening of April 10, Vimy Ridge had been cleared of the enemy. Unfortunately, however, the remainder of the relatively short, five-week long, *Battle of Arras* was not to be fought in the manner of the first two days.

Fearful of German counter-attacks, the High Command did not – and up to a point, in all fairness, mostly due to the foul weather, *could* not – exploit the momentary disarray in the German ranks. Orders had thus been given to hold the positions taken and to consolidate. By the end of those five weeks little else had changed and the Germans had recovered from the initial Canadian success.

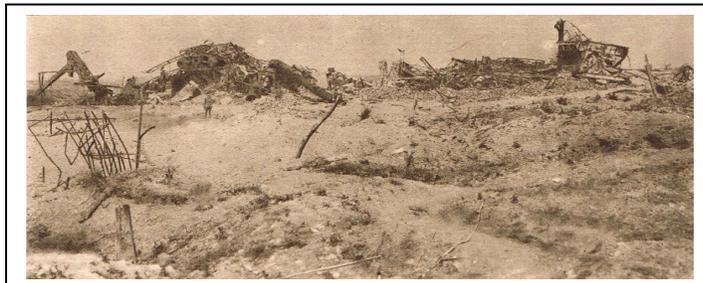
The casualty count – all ranks - of the 102nd Battalion, from April 9 up until and including April 24, had been as follows: *Killed in action or died of wounds*, one-hundred twenty-five; *wounded in action*, one-hundred eighty-nine; *missing in action*, twenty-seven.

The late spring and summer was to be spent by the Canadians in much the same positions that they had occupied after the return from *First Somme*, that is to say the sectors from the area of Arras in the south, to Béthune in the north. The 102nd Battalion War Diarist appears to report a more active period for the 102nd Battalion than for certain other units, particularly in mounting raids against the enemy.

(Right: 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: The use of the head-bands – tumps – was an idea adapted and adopted from the North American aboriginal peoples – from *Le Miroir*)



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 his reserves - from this area, it had ordered that operations also take place in the sectors of the front running north-south from Béthune down 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 *Le Miroir*)

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

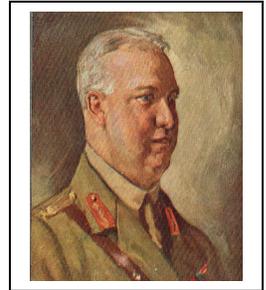
(Right: Canadian troops advancing across No-Man's Land in the summer of 1917 – from *Le Miroir*)



Those expecting *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 had been high enough to be considered - by the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Corps, Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie – as the key feature in the area, its capture more important than that of the city of Lens itself.

(Right: *The portrait of Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie is from Illustration.*)



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

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



These defences had held firm and the Canadian artillery, which had been by then employing newly-developed procedures, was to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. *Hill 70* had remained in Canadian hands.

(Right: *A 220 mm. Canadian artillery piece, under camouflage on the Lens Front in the summer of 1917, being readied for use – from Le Miroir*)



The attack of August 15 had, however, been the responsibility of the Canadian 1st and 2nd Divisions, and thus the 102nd Battalion – being of the 4th Division – had had little role to play*. That is not to say that it had not been active in the area during that month of August: in the first part of the month while in the forward area it had played a role in a major raid and a number of offensive patrols.



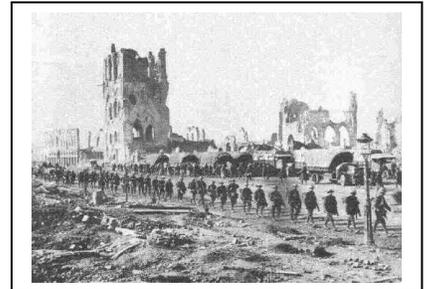
**That is what the Battalion War Diary appears to record; yet 'Hill 70' is recognized as one of the unit's battle honours*

(Right above: *Canadian troops in the vicinity of Hill 70 a short time after its capture by the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions – from Le Miroir*)

This attack on August 15 in the area of *Hill 70* and the city of Lens had apparently been intended to be the precursor of weeks of an entire campaign spear-headed by the Canadians. However, the British offensive further to the north was by that time proceeding less well than intended and the Canadians were to be needed there.

Activities in the *Lens Sector* had thus been suspended in early September of 1917 whereupon, for a short period, the 102nd Battalion was to revert once more to the drudgery of trench warfare.

It would not be until the final weeks of October that the Canadians were to become embroiled in the offensive to the north-east of Ypres. Officially named the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign has come to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, having adopted that name from a small village on a ridge that had been designated – *ostensibly* – as one of the British Army’s objectives.



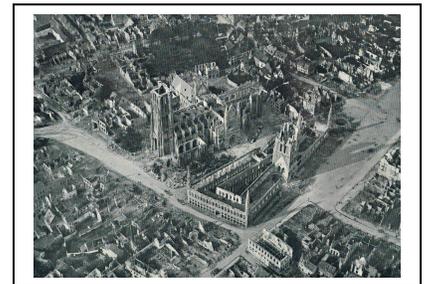
(Right above: *Troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration*)

(Right: *An unidentified – perhaps unidentifiable – part of the Passchendaele battlefield in the autumn of 1917 – from Illustration*)



From the time that the Canadians had entered the fray, it was they who were to shoulder a great deal of the burden. From the week of October 26 until November 3 it was to be the 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions which would spearhead the assault, with the 1st and 2nd Divisions in reserve.

From November 5 until the official end of the affair – November 10 is often, but not always, cited as the date - the reverse was to be true with troops of the 2nd Canadian Division having finally entered the remnants of the village of Passchendaele itself.



(Right above: *An aerial photograph, taken in July of 1915 – just after the battle of 2nd Ypres - which shows the shell of the medieval city, an image entitled Ypres-la-Morte (Ypres the Dead) – By the end of the conflict there was little left standing. – from Illustration*)

As for the 102nd Battalion, during the first days of October it had trained in the vicinity of the coal-mining commune of Divion, some twenty kilometres north-west of the larger centre of Lens. On October 11 the unit had boarded buses to travel north. At Ste-Marie Cappel, just short of the Franco-Belgian border, it was then to halt for ten days before resuming, again by bus, the journey to Ypres.



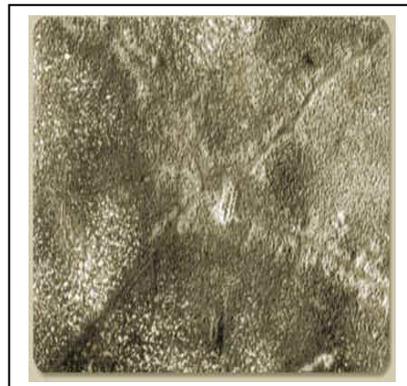
(Right above: *The village of Passchendaele as seen from the air in 1916, after two years of war – from Illustration*)

(continued)

From there it had proceeded on foot to the remnants of the community of Potijze, just to the north-east. After a year's absence, the unit was now once again in Belgium, on this occasion to relieve the by-then battered Australians on October 22.

(Right below: *The village of Passchendaele as seen from the air in 1917, after the battle of that name – from Illustration*)

In the eighteen days which had followed – in the period up until November 10 - the 102nd Battalion was to move to the west, back to the community of Brandhoek on three occasions, then forward to the reserve positions at Potijze, also on three occasions. It had advanced to the mud of the front area once - *the walk was composed of two lines of bath mats laid over the mud which was deep enough to engulf a man up to the arm-pits* - and had also withdrawn into France once, only to return six days later, on November 9... *detraining at Ypres the Battalion marched to Potijze which they reached at dusk to find a muddy field and a pile of tents provided for accommodation. Conditions were unnecessarily as full of discomfort as possible.*



On November 12 the 102nd Battalion had moved forward into support; on the following day it had advanced into the front line where it would remain but not to be ordered to attack - thus the majority of the casualties that the unit was to incur would be due to enemy artillery. Then finally, on November 18 it had retired for a final time, from Belgium.



(Preceding page: *Canadian troops, performing their ablutions in the water collecting in a shell hole, at some time during the last month of Passchendaele – from Le Miroir*)

The Battalion War Diarist at this point claims that the 102nd Battalion (*Central Ontario*) was the last Canadian Battalion to withdraw from the *3rd Battle of Ypres: Passchendaele*.

(Right below: *The Canadian Memorial standing on Passchendaele Ridge, at the southwestern outskirts of the re-constructed village – photograph from 2015*)

By November 23, having marched two-thirds of the way there, the unit had been back in the area of Divion in northern France whence it had departed some six weeks previously. The unit was to remain in the vicinity of Divion until December 18, during which time probably the most notable event was to have been the Canadian federal elections for which the vote had begun, for military personnel, as early as December 1.



Both Christmas and New Year's Day of 1918 having been spent in the lines in the area of Méricourt, life once more had apparently already by those dates reverted to that of the everyday drudgery of existence in the trenches.

On January 10 the unit had withdrawn to *Hill's Camp* close to Neuville St.-Vaast, adjacent to *Vimy Ridge*, where there apparently was a hall sufficiently large so as to host cinema and vaudeville shows – the pleasure afforded by these events undoubtedly balanced by the frequent working-parties and carrying-parties required by the camp authorities.



(Right above: *Canadian soldiers perusing the upcoming program at a make-shift theatre in a camp somewhere behind the lines – from Le Miroir*)

Ten days later, on January 20, the Battalion had been back in the trenches before, by the end of the month, then retiring to *Vancouver Camp* at Chateau de la Haie. By now it was winter once more and the cadence of the conflict had once more slowed, many of the Canadian units now having been retired from the forward areas for prolonged periods.

This was to be the experience of the 102nd Battalion and of its three newly-arrived officers, one of them Lieutenant Goodyear, who had reported *to duty* to *Vancouver Camp*, Chateau de la Haie, on February 3 of that 1918.

* * * * *

Apparently it was not until March 12 that Lieutenant Goodyear was to begin to experience the harsh realities of war in the forward area. Until then, although having changed venue on three more occasions, one of which had required the Battalion to be continually *standing by* on twelve-hour's notice, his new unit had continued to be posted well behind the lines. On occasion the most important subject in the Battalion War Diary entry was to be the day's football match.

Even on March 21 there was little of urgency about the day's activities although, on the 23rd, all leave to England was cancelled due to the anticipation of a German attack in the sector. The Germans themselves on the following day added to the tense atmosphere by unleashing three artillery barrages of the type that might precede an infantry sortie, but nothing further transpired in the area.

But it had elsewhere.

Perhaps not many people realize how close the Germans were to come 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 *Great War*, the Germans would launch a massive attack, *Operation Michael*, the first of several, 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 descended for the most part on the British troops there, particularly on the Fifth Army, stationed adjacent to the French.

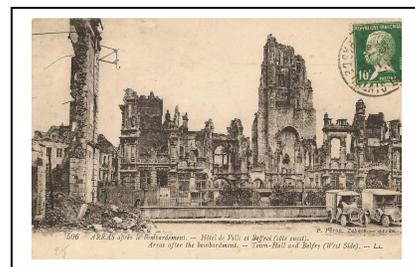
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(Preceding page: *While the Germans did not attack Lens in the spring of 1918, they bombarded it heavily during the time of their offensive in order to keep the British uncertain about their intentions and to oblige them to retain troops in the area – some sources have the image as one of the adjoining community of Liévin. – from Le Miroir*)

The German advance of the first day of spring of that 1918 continued for a month before petering out just in front of the city of Amiens. The ultimate failure of the offensive was a result of a combination of factors: British and Commonwealth resistance, German fatigue and logistical problems, and French co-operation with the British were the most significant.

**A second but lesser such offensive, ‘Georgette’, was to in northern France and in Belgium on April 9, in the area where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was serving with the British 29th Division. It also was successful for a while but had been held by the end of the month.*

Its War Diary suggests, however, that the 102nd Battalion was not to have been directly involved in any infantry action. At the end of March, while stationed in Brigade Reserve at Écurie just to the north of Arras, it was ordered that... *the men would be prepared to move off at 15 mins. notice with water-bottles filled.* But the threat faded and apparently the unit’s services were never to be required.



(Right above: *This was the City Hall of Arras and its venerable bell-tower by the spring of 1918 after nearly four years of bombardment by German guns. – from a vintage post-card*)

The Battalion was to remain in approximately the same area to the north of Arras during the remainder of the crisis*. During that period there had been one major false alarm and also a number of local raids undertaken, but then nothing more of a critical nature had been reported.

Thus, on April 23, the 102nd Battalion returned to *Cellar Camp* in the area of Neuville St.-Vaast where it then remained until the 29th of the month.

Thereupon it was back to business as usual.

**The area just to the south and west of Arras was at the northern extreme of the German offensive. Unsure as to what the enemy’s intentions were, the High Command moved the Canadian units into the area to forestall any attack if and when it occurred to protect the avenue to the Channel ports and also the coal-fields in the area of Béthune.*

In the event, the offensive in that direction was stopped cold by the British Third Army before it reached Arras, but during the period of the crisis the Germans had stayed active enough to keep the British and Canadians wondering.

As for the situation to the north, it apparently was never deemed serious enough to warrant any Canadian movement in that direction.

(continued)

There had been, however, an incident involving Lieutenant Goodyear during this period. Excerpt from 102nd Battalion War Diary of April 10, 1918: *The train for material was very late and the 'Tump liners' who were the last to reach camp, did not arrive till 4 a.m. Casualties: 2 officers & 11 O.R. wounded; these include the 12 concerned in the raid*... and Lieut. H.J. Goodyear of "A" Co.. Lieutenant Goodyear remained on duty.*

(Right above: *Possibly the same Canadian carrying-party equipped with head-bands – Tumps - as seen on a previous page – from Le Miroir*)



**A raid by four officers and one-hundred thirty-two other ranks of 'B' Company had been successfully carried out in the early morning of the same April 10.*

Thus a relative calm descended on the front as the German threat faded; the offensives had won a great deal of ground for the enemy, but nothing of any military significance on either of the two fronts. The calm itself was hardly surprising: both sides were exhausted and needed time to once more re-organize and – less and less feasible in these later years of the war – to re-enforce.

The Allies, nevertheless, from this point of view were a lot better off than their German adversaries – they had two empires to draw from and the Americans were belatedly arriving on the scene. An overall Commander-in-Chief had been appointed, Foch, and he was setting about organizing a counter-offensive. Thus the front was to remain quiet – until the second week in August.

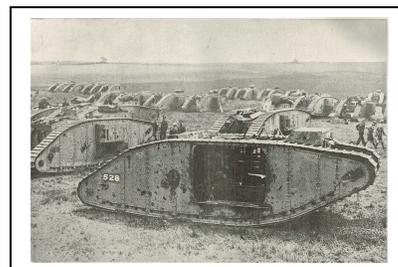


(Right: *Le Maréchal Ferdinand Jean-Marie Foch, this photograph from 1921, became Generalissimo of the Allied Armies on March 26, 1918. – photograph from the Wikipedia web-site*)

On July 31, Lieutenant Goodyear and the 102nd Battalion were withdrawn from the forward area to Écoivres to organize and to prepare for a move, although at the time the destination was kept shrouded in secrecy.

At six o'clock in the evening of August 3, the entire 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade boarded buses which were to take it at first to the west and then to the south. At five-thirty on the next morning, the 102nd Battalion was deposited by the side of the road with a further eight-kilometre march ahead of it before breakfast and sleep.

Night marches now lay ahead of the unit – some as long apparently as forty kilometres and often without anything to eat during the entire night. These were to take it to the western and then southern reaches of Amiens in a semi-circular fashion to end up at Bois de Boves (*Boves Wood*), at a distance of some eight kilometres south-east of that city. The unit arrived there at four-thirty in the morning of August 7.



(continued)

(Preceding page: *In 1917 the British formed the Tank Corps, a force which became ever stronger in 1918 as evidenced by this photograph of a tank park, once again 'somewhere in France', where it was to play a critical role during the last months of the Great War. – from Illustration*)

While the men likely slept on that August 7, the officers and NCOs of the Battalion were attending meetings at which the details of the imminent offensive, for which the entire Canadian Corps had travelled to this place, were explained so that, by the next morning, each and every soldier would be familiar with the role that he had to play.

For indeed, the attack was to go in on the morrow morn. That night the 102nd Battalion marched once again, on this occasion to its assembly points behind *le Bois de Gentelles*.

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



The Battalion War Diarist takes up the story of August 8, 1918:

12.20 a.m. We reached our First Assembly Point behind GENTELLES WOOD, where we found the other Brigade Units assembling. Here we remained for five hours...

The Canadian Corps was on the verge of the biggest operation in which it had yet been engaged and figured as a part of the most spectacular Counter-offensive yet launched against the Hun...

4.20 a.m. Barrage opened and the 3rd Division on our Front moved forward to the attack. There was a white mist hanging low.

5.20 a.m. We moved forward...the mist quickly disappearing...through fields of ripened corn, past batteries of every calibre, through orchards and along the AMIENS-ROYE RD. where we soon saw the first fruits of the attack in the shape of numerous bodies of Heine prisoners and our own walking wounded.

9.30 a.m. Reached our next Assembly Point in C.6.a. Here we received unexpected orders to make a long halt.

12.10 p.m. Moved forward to the attack...

After the capture of our first objective...Headquarters moved up to a German encampment... Here we found all sorts of supplies – beer, food, including cake, footwear. Close by was a German Field Ambulance full of their wounded. There was some bombardment of Headquarters, but for the most part the night passed quietly enough...



(Right above: *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)

The pursuit – for that was what it was to be on the first day of the campaign before resistance stiffened and the attackers began to run out of tanks – continued during the days that followed, the Battalions of the 11th Brigade passing through each other in a rotating system. It was a type of warfare that had not been seen for four years, not since the summer and early autumn of 1914, and an unheard-of advance of twenty kilometres of ground had been covered and taken during the first week – most of it, however, in the first forty-eight hours.

On August 20 Lieutenant Goodyear's Battalion began a final tour in the front line, a tour which was to end four days later when the final units of the Canadian Corps were to be transferred back to the Arras Sector*.

On August 22... an "A" Company patrol under Lt. H.J. Goodyear set out to connect with the Australians on our left more closely. (Excerpt from War Diary entry of the day)

**The withdrawal to the Arras sector was to be undertaken in the same manner and by many of the same itineraries as the transfer to Amiens of three weeks before. Speed and secrecy were again priorities. French units now took over from the Canadian and British troops on the Amiens Front.*

(Right: A German machine-gunner who also gave his all – from Illustration)

Circumstances of Casualty: *Killed in Action. At about 11 P.M. on August 22nd 1918, whilst surveying the position with a view to making a better connection between the extreme right post and left flank an enemy machine gun post opened fire, killing him instantly, a bullet passing through his head.*

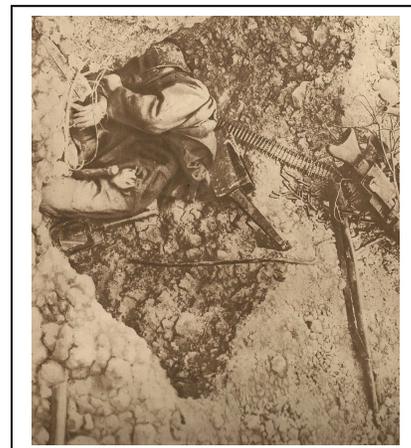
The son of Josiah Goodyear, carpenter and fisherman, and of Louisa Highmore Goodyear (née Wellon) of Grand Falls - and formerly of Ladle Cove - Newfoundland, he was also brother to Daisy-Margaret (known as Kate), to Harold-Kenneth, Oswald-Raymond, to Stanley-Charles, to Josiah-Robert, and to Roland*.

One of three brothers to die during the course of the Great War, Lieutenant Goodyear was reported as having been *killed in action* in the area of Rosières-en-Santerre on August 22 of 1918.

(Right above: The photograph of Lieutenant H.J. Goodyear is from the Ancestry.ca web-site.)

Lieutenant Goodyear had also made the request that a Miss(?) Gertrude Jamieson of 405, Aylmer Apartments in the city of Ottawa be notified if anything untoward became of him.

**The following are the two of his brothers who also made the ultimate sacrifice: Lieutenant Stanley Charles Goodyear of the Newfoundland Regiment was reported as having been killed in action on the night of October 9-10, 1917, at the Broembek, during*



Passchendaele; Lance Corporal Oswald Raymond Goodyear was killed in action on October 11-12, 1916, during the action at Gueudecourt (see further below and elsewhere in these files).

(Right: The sacrifice of the three Goodyear brothers – Lance Corporal Oswald Raymond, Lieutenant Stanley Charles and Lieutenant Hedley John – is honoured on the Grand-Falls – Windsor War Memorial – photograph from 2010(?))



Lieutenant Harold Kenneth Goodyear and Captain Josiah Robert Goodyear, both of the Newfoundland Regiment, were wounded but survived the conflict.*

**He also later of the Newfoundland Forestry Corps*

In Appendix 'A' of the 102nd Battalion War Diary for September, 1918, it is noted that Lieutenant Goodyear was one of five officers to have been awarded the Military Cross.*

**The entry was certainly written and inserted on a later date as it records that the decoration had been awarded by Authority of the 4th Canadian Division, October 5, 1918. There appears to be no date recorded of the action in question although one of his papers cites... for his service in the Battle of Amiens (August 8 to September 3, 1918).*

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the following awards to the undermentioned Officers and Warrant Officers in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the field:-

Lt. Hedley John Goodyear, 102nd Can Bn., 2nd Cent. Ont. R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Totally regardless of danger, this officer led his platoon forward to the capture of a wood, which was stubbornly defended by machine-gun posts. When the other platoon commanders had become casualties, he reorganized their platoons and took charge of the skirmishing line, which he finally led in a charge, ensuring the success of the day's operation. He set a fine example of coolness and determination.



Monday 2 December, 1918 (London Gazette 31043 2/12/18)

Lieutenant Goodyear died at the age of twenty-two years and four days: date of birth at Ladle Cove, Newfoundland, August 18, 1886 (from attestation papers and from the original Newfoundland Birth Register).

Lieutenant Hedley John Goodyear was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

(continued)



(Right: Lance Corporal Oswald Raymond Goodyear lies buried in Bancourt British Cemetery.)



(Right and above: Lieutenant Stanley Charles Goodyear, having no known grave, is commemorated on the Bronze beneath the Caribou in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel.)



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 23, 2023.