

OFFICERS OF THE 196<sup>TH</sup> WESTERN UNIVERSITIES BATTALION  
31 DECEMBER 1916

196<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION ABSORPTION INTO  
19<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN RESERVE BATTALION  
(SASKATCHEWAN)

3 MARCH 2022 DRAFT

D.G. MERCER

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

When the 196th Western Universities Battalion was dissolved, as were many other newly created Canadian battalions, it was Taken-on-Strength into the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) at Seaford, England on 1 January 1917. Minister of Militia and Defense, Sam Hughes had bypassed regular channels at the start of the First World War in order to recruit large numbers of men in a short time period. This spirited action generated 260 Canadian infantry battalions in short order. Factoring in expected casualties and then recruiting replacements within the small remaining eligible age cohort from the then small Canadian population; this original number of battalions just could not be managed nor sustained.

As a result, in January 1917, as these “Overseas” recruitment battalions arrived in England, most were broken up and absorbed into a system of 26 “Reserve Battalions” organized by their original military district. These reserve battalions then provided a more organized stream of replacements to the what later amounted to 53 active battalions within the Canadian Expeditionary Force. It should be noted there was still moderate chaos until after Sir Richard Turner VC assumed management of Canadian of Canadian forces in England.

Naturally, the large number of officer positions generated by these 260 new battalions were filled with patriotic individuals with variable backgrounds in military experience and aptitude. Some were neither suitable nor useful in a combat situation. A good number were sent home, while other more suitable officers were retained first in these Reserve Battalions before being re-allocated. The same scenario was played out in the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion as it screened the officers of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion from western Canada.

During the course of the war, some Reserve Battalions, in-turn, were also absorbed by other Reserve Battalions. In Saskatchewan the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) was later absorbed by the 15th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan). And some officers and men were carried forward in first the 19<sup>th</sup> and then 15<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion as there was no place for them in more front-line units.

As of 1 January, 1917 there were twenty-five (25) officers listed and retained in order of seniority in the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion documents – the remainder were generally sent home. Four retained officers were engineers, three were geologists and three were associated with law, two were medical doctors along with an architect and newspaper editor – 12 were university professors associated with a university or college. As befits the early settlement period and the just forming university institutions, one officer was already the 34-year-old president of a theological college who joined with his brother who was an engineering professor at the same university. The remainder were teachers or students.

Of these twenty-five officers, four (4) will be Killed in Action or die of wounds. Another four (4) will be wounded, one more than once including a leg amputation at the hip. In fact, of the 9 officers electing for combat battalions, only 1 does not become a casualty. An additional five (5) will join the Royal Flying Corps, the Royal Air Force and/or Royal Naval Air Services but none will record any aerial victories. The remainder tended to fill more administrative roles largely in England.

Five officers, the majority reverting in rank to go overseas, were drafted into the 46th “*Suicide*” Battalion from Saskatchewan. The nickname was well-earned as three were Killed-in-Action and two were wounded with one wounded twice – all five became casualties of war. Another three officers were drafted into the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles with one Killed-in-Action and one wounded. One officer served the 4th Battalion Machine Gun Corps and will be severely wounded in the face.

Three Military Cross were awarded to these officers. One officer was from the Oneida First Nation in Ontario and a 28-year-old student at the University of Alberta and was wounded while serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles – it was later discovered his was blind in one eye.

Most former 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion officers survived the Great War, largely by accident but some by design. Nonetheless, one young married officer could not get a combat battalion assignment until 5 September 1918 – five weeks later he was dead - just over a week before the end of the war.

All told, these officers were scattered and re-shuffled through at least eighteen other units during the Great War. As is human nature, some served with great distinction while others gravitated towards less perilous postings. But it must be remembered all were volunteers and Attested with enthusiasm while perhaps not fully understanding what conditions might befall them in the Great War and how they would react.

The follow cryptic biographical vignettes attempt to outline their basic stories based on their personal records and will be expanded as new information is researched. By design, each biographical vignette is formatted to retain its own syntax, while including a modest number of cross-references to illustrate the connectivity between them and the units and men they served with. A simple labeling under each name encapsulates their background and each name, as appropriate, includes a prefix symbol to denote if they had been Killed-in-Action or were Wounded. Some of this background research material will be later incorporated in a larger study of the Borden Motor Machine Gun Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

These vignettes have been extracted from their personnel files published by Canadian Archives. As such, these personnel files may not reflect the full measure of their service in the Great War.

Killed



Wounded



List of Officers, in order of seniority, as of 1 January 1917 and associated with the dissolution of the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion on 31 December 1916 and transfer into the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) in England for subsequent re-deployment to other Canadian or Imperial units. Officers surplus to requirements are not listed.

HSC.21.

Appendix B

Unit. 19th Canadian Reserve Bttn. Date. January 1st, 1917

14. List of Officers in order of seniority, showing employment with regard to Companies, Platoons, etc., and showing Units from which drawn:-  
196th Battalion as at January 1st, 1917

Rank.	Name.		Employed as
Lieut-Col	MacKay.	D. S.	Officer Commanding.
Major	Brock.	R. W.	2nd in Command.
Major & Adj	Rousseau.	M. C.	Adjutant.
Major	Bateman.	R. J. G.	Company Commander.
"	Wilson.	N. R.	" "
"	MacLeod.	W. V.	" "
Captain	LeRoy.	O. E.	" "
"	Armes.	N. P.	2nd Command Co & Musketry Officer.
"	Oliver.	J. P.	2nd in Command of Company.
"	Shepperd.	E. C.	" " " "
"	Martin.	W.	" " " "
"	Burgess.	C. S.	Quartermaster.
"	Walker.	T. W.	Medical Officer.
"	MacEachran.	J. M.	Paymaster.
"	Oliver.	E. H.	Chaplain.
Lieut	Schofield.	S. J.	Ass't Adjutant.
"	Fife.	W. M. W.	Platoon Commander and Assistant Musketry Officer.
"	Hopper.	C. W.	Platoon Commander.
"	Freer.	F. J.	" "
"	McKenzie.	W.	" "
"	Cunningham.	R. C.	" "
"	Kerr.	J. H.	Signalling Officer and Platoon Commander.
"	Lee.	C. G.	Platoon Commander.
"	McKee.	W. C.	" "
"	Kennedy.	L. H.	" "
"	Shaw.	J. T.	" "

## Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay

Medical Doctor – 27<sup>th</sup> CEF Battalion /196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion - Officer Commanding, O.B.E.  
38 years old, married with one young son

**Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay** was a 38-year-old medical doctor and surgeon when he re-enlisted for a second time with the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion on 1 June 1916. Born in Reserve Mines, Nova Scotia on the northern tip of Cape Breton and near the coal mining industry, he was the son of Conservative Senator William MacKay (1847—1915) who was also a medical doctor. The younger Dr. MacKay, a 1902 McGill Medical School graduate, had done post-grad work in London, Edinburgh & Liverpool and later became a Professor of Medicine after the war in addition to his private practice.



One source suggests MacKay first joined the Canadian Militia in 1892 at the age of 14; serving in the 17th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery in Sydney, Nova Scotia. A more plausible connection includes the 16th Field Ambulance, CAMC (1907-1919) after his medical degree. Later he transferred to the 79th Cameron Highlanders of Canada when they formed in Winnipeg and commanded a Special Company of the Battalion (Militia) visiting the mother battalion at the coronation of King George in June 1911.

At the start of the Great War, and working as a medical doctor in Winnipeg, MacKay first Attested with the 27th (City of Winnipeg) Battalion on 25 October 1914. On 11 March 1916 he returned to Canada as the Officer Commanding the 196th Western Universities Battalion. By all accounts, he was the most experienced officer in the 196th Battalion at its formation.

Again, first Attesting in the 27th Battalion (City of Winnipeg), 6th Infantry Brigade on 25 October 1914, as a then 36-year-old surgeon, he was appointed Major in the 27th Battalion and embarked for England with the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 17 May 1915. In leaving Winnipeg, the first entry in the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion (City of Winnipeg) described the scene as follows:

*Winnipeg, 13 May 1915, 8.30 am*

*The Battalion entrained this morning in two sections – No. 1 Section under Major D.S. MacKay – No. 2 Section under Lt-Col. Snyder. The whole Battalion marched to the SPR Sidings from the Barracks at Tuxedo – Old Agricultural College – being met “Enroute” by the 43rd Battalion (Cameron Highlanders of Canada) whose pipe band played the Battalion to the Station. O.C. 78th Battalion also marched his to the station to see us off – about 2000 people Friends, Relations etc. of the men were also present to bid us Good-bye.*

On 16 May 1915, the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion arrived in Quebec by rail and began boarding the *SS Carpathia* beginning at 2 pm. Several military units were traveling together with the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion arriving late to the boat on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The war diary noted the following:

*SS Carpathia – Enroute – 17 May 1915, 3:15 pm*

*SS Carpathia sailed having on board the following –*

Headquarters 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade

*Colonel H.D.B Ketchen, Commanding OC Troops on Board [ 2 Staff Officers. Major Moore + Capt. Montague + men]*

Borden’s Armoured Battery

*Major Holland, OC                      Officers and Men.*

31st Battalion

*Lt-Col Bell OC                      Officers, NCO and Men*

27th Battalion

*Lt.-Col. Snyder, OC. 32 Officers. 1,044 NCOs and men.*

The transit across the Atlantic Ocean caused a fair amount of sea-sickness, one private deemed mentally unstable escaped custody, jumped overboard and was drown, no U-boats were encountered, some training was done and the ship made landfall on 28 May 1916 at 2.30 pm. The *SS Carpathia* moored at the Admiralty Docks Devonport at 4.45 pm. The war diarist added the following comment regarding the first moments in England; Upon docking, the “*Brigadier issued orders that men were not to cheer on Entering Port – This order was not obeyed. Imagine men keeping quiet when entering an English Port on a Troopship and not cheered by other Boats in the Harbour. Especially Canadians!*”

After further training in England the Battalion proceeded to France on 27 September 1915 and between 28 October to 11 November 1915, Major MacKay was “*On Command, Acting Brigade Major, 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade*”. Later between 25 November 1915 to 28 January 1916 Major MacKay was “*Acting Staff-Captain, 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade*.” Altogether, Major MacKay had accumulated about 34 weeks on the Western Front.

On 25 February 1916 Captain MacKay was transferred to Canadian Army Medical Corps with the proviso “*To be Temporary Major, Canadian Army Medical Corps*” and then again transferred to No. 1 Canadian General Hospital on 27 February 1916 and finally proceeded to England to Canadian Army Medical Corps-Training School on 23 May 1916. Time in medical training was cut short with the offer of the Lieut.-Colonel position with the newly formed 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion and Major MacKay proceeded to Canada for duty on 2 June 1916. The transit to Canada was aboard the *S.S. Missanabie*. On 1 June 1916 he was appointed Lt.-Colonel and Officer Commanding the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF and signed his officer papers at Camp Hughes, Manitoba on 1 June 1916.

After overseeing training at Camp Hughes in the summer of 1916, Lt.-Colonel MacKay and the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps and men, they were first absorbed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan). The command of this Reserve Battalion was transferred to Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay himself. This approach likely offset some of the surprise and bitterness felt by the members of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion – but the short operational life of the Battalion was over.

Lt.-Colonel MacKay remained the Officer Commanding the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion until 16 October 1917 when he “*Relinquished Command of 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) on assuming command of Young Soldiers’ Battalion, 16 October 1917.*” The Young Soldiers Battalion during WWI screened out underage boys that had enlisted and made their way over to England and sometimes into combat in France. It sent them home or trained them until they came of age and were ready to fight. Earlier, Lt.-Colonel MacKay “*Proceeded to France On Command*” for what was likely a six-day informational inspection (26-31 June 1917) regarding current Front-line conditions. Lt.-Colonel MacKay was “*Seconded for duty to Young Soldiers’ Battalion*” from 16 October 1917-12 December 1918. On 9 January 1919 he returned to Canada and on 13 February 1919 was Struck-off-Strength CEF on General Demobilization in Winnipeg. Awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1919 for service in the Great War, he returned to his medical practice, remained active in the local militia and died in Winnipeg on 27 October 1943 at the age of 65. Burial was in the St. John's Cathedral Cemetery in Winnipeg.

## Major Reginald Walter Brock

Geologist - Dean of Applied Science, University of British Columbia - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command  
42 years old, married with 5 sons under 12

**Major Reginald Walter Brock** had been the Director of the Geological Survey of Canada for the period 1907 to 1914. In 1914, Brock became Dean of Applied Science at UBC, although his career was interrupted when he Attested with the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada on 28 December 1915 as a Major and went on duty in Nanaimo, British Columbia. He was 41 years old and married with 5 boys ranging from 2 to 12 years old.

Major Brock was transferred to the 196th Western Universities Battalion on 15 April 1916; however, the records are not clear when he arrived at Camp Hughes in Manitoba. He was 2nd in Command of the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion under Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. As with all those still in the 19<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion, Major Brock was absorbed into the 15th Canadian Reserve Battalion at Seaford. It was not until 25 May 1918 that Major Brock was seconded for duty with the War Office (Foreign Office Board of Trade) for unspecified duties. He continued with the War Office appointment until 8 August 1919 when he was detached.

Major Brock departed England via Liverpool on 22 August 1919 on the *S.S. Bohemian* and disembarked at Boston, Massachusetts on 2 September 1919. Six months later, on 1 March 1920 the *S.S. Bohemian*, in passage from Boston back to Liverpool, struck Black Rock off Sambro Island and sank during a storm. Six people drown and 174 passengers and crew survived. Major Brock was Struck-off-Strength in Canada by Military District No. 4 in Ottawa on 10 September 1919.

He returned to the University of British Columbia in 1919 and continued as a geology professor and dean. He was killed in an airplane accident with his wife in 1935.

# Major Maurice Charles Rousseau

Constructional Engineer – 32nd CEF Battalion - Adjutant  
Adjutant, Married with 11-year-old daughter

Then **Lieutenant Maurice Charles Rousseau** was a 35-year-old, married man with a young daughter and a former British-born resident of the Jersey Channel Islands. He first Attested in Winnipeg on 11 February 1915 as a Lieutenant, “D” Company, 32nd CEF Battalion. The 32nd Battalion goes to England where it remained and was re-designated the 32nd Reserve Battalion on 18 April 1915 with any residual members finally allocated to the 15th Canadian Reserve Battalion on 4 January 1917. Standing at almost 6’2” and 200 pounds, Captain Rosseau was one of the larger men in any unit of this time. His listed occupation was “*Superintendent of Government Transportation in West Africa for 15 years.*”

Lieutenant Rousseau was attached to the 17th Reserve Battalion as a “Paymaster” on 26 June 1915 and later transferred to the Royal Canadian Regiment<sup>1</sup> overseas as “Paymaster” on 19 October 1915, embarked on 1 November 1915 for Belgium and was likely on service before the middle of the month. Admitted to No. 5 Canadian Field Ambulance just a month later on 12 December 1915; he was discharged on 27 December 1915 and transferred back to England (sick). He was Taken-on-Strength with the 11th Canadian Reserve Battalion as Paymaster on 16 February 1916 but then declared unfit for any service for 2 months, and then only for Home Service. He was transferred to the 69<sup>th</sup> Battalion as “Paymaster” on 22 June 1916. Assessed by a medical board on 16 July 1916; Lieutenant Rousseau was with the 69th Battalion as “Paymaster”. Lieutenant Rousseau was “*Struck-off-Strength Canada – New Appointment*” as of 21 July 1916. This appointment took him to back to Winnipeg and then to Camp Hughes near Brandon, Manitoba.

Previously, the Royal Canadian Regiment combined with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the 42nd and 49th Canadian Infantry Battalions to form the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade. An excerpt from the Brigade war diary summarizes the first few months of action in late 1915.

## *7th Infantry Brigade War Diary – December 1915*

*Having been brought up to War strength by recruits from the Canadian Expeditionary Force Camp at Valcartier, P.Q. the Regiment sailed for Bermuda on September 10th 1914 and relieved the 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. On being relieved by the 38th Battalion Canadian Overseas Force it proceeded to England via Halifax leaving Bermuda on August 13th 1915, arriving in England September 5th 1915.*

*It was rearmed and equipped at Shorncliffe, casualties being filled by drafts from Canada and volunteers from the other Canadian Battalions at Shorncliffe. The Regiment landed in France on November 1st and proceeded to Bailloul, being billeted around Meteren and form part of Corps troops to the Canadian Corps. A week later it moved to Westhof and went into the trenches for instruction in trench warfare with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade at Ploegsteert. The Regiment then moved to LaClytte – 2nd Canadian Divisional Area – on November 19th where after supplying working parties from front line trenches and supports for about a month it moved to Boeschepe and became part of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade on 22nd December 1915.*

Royal Canadian Regiment war diary for January and February 1916 was generally quiet with no attacks, largely quiet days with the odd artillery round killing a few groups of soldiers each week. The diagnosis of shell shock for a paymaster behind the lines during this relatively quiet period seems odd.

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<sup>1</sup> During his time with the Royal Canadian Regiment in Flanders their Front was rather quiet with no attacks and only intermittent artillery fire and rifle fire. During the whole month of February 1915 there was only one soldier killed in a working party and no significant action by the Regiment. Neuve Eglise, Belgium was well behind the Front lines at this time. The comment regarding “*Shell Shock*” does not appear to have originated from any significant artillery fire or combat.



Attesting a second time at Camp Hughes in Manitoba, Canada on 1 August 1916, then Captain Maurice Charles Rousseau describes his previous occupation as “*constructural engineer*” and previous military service with only the 32nd CEF Battalion. Militia service mentions the 105th Saskatoon Fusiliers. No mention of the Royal Canadian Regiment was stated. Ranked 3rd in officer seniority with the 196th Western Universities Battalion, Captain Rousseau became the Adjutant upon enlistment and was promoted to Major Adjutant on 15 September 1916.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196th Battalion. Major Rousseau becomes the Paymaster for the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) under Lt-Colonel MacKay.

Beginning on 23 April 1917 Major Rousseau arranged to be a “*Temporary Major in the Canadian Forestry Corps*” and on 23 June 1917 he was “*Struck-off-Strength 19th Reserve Battalion on transfer to Canadian Forestry Corps*” and ends up in Scotland. There was a lumbering accident and Major Rousseau was admitted Canadian Convalescent Officers Hospital, Matlock, Bath (broken fingers) and was discharged on 28 May 1918. As a Major, it begs the question, why was he personally working the heavy equipment instead of experienced Other Ranks – many of them with direct experience from working in the Canadian forests?

Arranging yet another transfer, Major Maurice Charles Rousseau relinquishes his commission from the Canadian Forestry Corps on 12 August 1918 to join the RAF; was Struck-off-Strength from Overseas Military Forces of Canada (OMFC) the same day and was “*Granted Temporary Commission as Major RAF*” on 13 August 1918.

After the Armistice, British Archives indicate Major Rousseau later went to Germany with the Inter-Allied Commission and then spent the remainder of his career at the Air Ministry's Works and Buildings Service until retiring in England at the end of 1928<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Information from British National Archives provided by Malcolm Cooper from England.

## † ‡ Major Reginald John Godfrey Bateman (Reg. 74029)

Professor of English - 28th CEF Battalion - University of Saskatchewan – Company Commander  
31 years old, single

**Major Reginald John Godfrey Bateman** (Reg. No. 74029) was unique amongst the officers of the newly formed 196th Western Universities Battalion, save one other – he had previously been on the Western Front and in action in late 1915 and early 1916 as first a private and then quickly a corporal and finally a sergeant with the 28th (Northwest) Battalion, “D” Company – and had experienced both the normal front line trench activities along with two unique battle experiences. As a result, he knew first hand what to expect with his second enlistment and return to the Western Front with the newly formed 196th Battalion – there were no lingering romantic illusions for this professor of English literature from the University of Saskatchewan. In his Last Will and Testament of June 1916, and part of his second Attestation with the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion, now Captain Bateman grants all of his books and furniture to the President of the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. W. C. Murray. His real estate goes to a Miss Muriel Bell on 807 17<sup>th</sup> Street E. in Saskatoon. Officer’s pay, his military kit and all insurance was bequeathed to various family members in Ireland.



Born in Ireland in County Kerry on 12 October 1883, Reginald Bateman was one of seven children born to Godfrey and Meloria Frances Emily Bateman. His father was an inspector of schools and perhaps also a well-to-do lawyer then living in Dublin, Ireland. Four of his siblings would enlist during the Great War, three as medical doctors and one as a nurse. One brother, Captain Arthur Cyril Bateman MC will receive the Military Cross in 1917 but will be wounded by the Germans as a doctor during capture at his hospital and die on 28 March 1918. The youngest brother will later move Saskatoon and take a post at the University of Saskatchewan in the Department of Philosophy. As for Professor Reginald Bateman, he was one of the first four professors on the university faculty in 1909 and was the first professor of English.

Just prior to the formation of the 28th Battalion, the then 31-year-old, single, English professor; Private Bateman had already Attested on 26 October 1915 in Saskatoon before Captain C.R. Hill, A/Officer Commanding of the 105th Saskatoon Fusiliers Regiment (Militia). Reginald Bateman was first placed on the Pay List of the Fusiliers until 8 November 1914 when he was transferred to the newly formed 28th Northwest Battalion as a private and then corporal in “D” Company. The Nominal Roll lists a Sergeant Reginald John Godfrey Bateman as the time of sailing. His enlistment was just a few weeks after the start of 1914 university classes at the new university.

The 28th (Northwest) Battalion<sup>3</sup> was authorized on 7 November 1914 and after the then 31-year-old, single, English professor Private Bateman had already Attested before Captain C.R. Hill, A/Officer Commanding of the 105th Saskatoon Fusiliers Regiment. This might place Professor Bateman amongst some of the first soldiers to Attest in western Canada.

Records are limited, but the new 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion trained in Winnipeg, Manitoba over the winter and early Spring of 1915 and was never associated with outdoor Camp Sewell/Camp Hughes near Brandon, Manitoba. The 28th was brigaded with the 27th (City of Winnipeg) Battalion, the 29th (Vancouver) and the 31st (Alberta). These units later formed the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division. There was also a reference to some shooting practice at a miniature armoury shooting range before the complete battalion entrained at the C.P.R. Depot in Winnipeg for Montreal. The 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion embarked for Britain on 29 May

<sup>3</sup> The 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion disembarked in France on 18 September 1915, where it fought as part of the 6th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division in France and Flanders until the end of the war. It is perpetuated by the Royal Regina Rifles.

1915 from the port of Montreal aboard the *SS Northland*<sup>4</sup>. The 28<sup>th</sup> (Northwest) Battalion was part of the 6th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division

Still in England, Bateman was promoted to Sergeant on 7 January 1915 while in Otterpool, Kent and embarked for France with the 28th Battalion on 17 September 1915 after some further training. Its first day overseas, as recorded in the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary, were typical of most Canadian units and noted the following:

*SIR JOHN MOORE PLAIN* 17 Sept. 1915

830 *The battalion paraded + marched via Military Road + Lower Lees Road to Folkestone Pier vis ordered to embark.*

*FOLKESTONE, ENGLAND*

11.00 *The battalion commenced to embark*

11.45 *The transport on which the Battalion embarked sailed*

*BOULOUGE, FRANCE* 18 Sept. 1915

2.30<sup>AM</sup> *The Battalion disembarked + proceeded to OSTROHOVER CAMP.*

7.30 *Arrived provided Interpreter joined +*

12.40 *joined the battalion paraded prior to entraining for overseas concentration area*

15.00 *The Battalion Entrained for ST. OMER [France]*

The 28th Battalion, as was the practice for most Canadian battalions upon arrival in the first part of the Great War, did its first tour in the mud of Flanders; in this instance it was the entrenched in the Kemmel area of Belgium about 5.5 miles SSW of Ypres. Upon arrival, and for much of September and early October 1915, it was generally quiet, very rainy and with a significant number of troops and officers going on Sick Parade owing to the cold and wet conditions.

The first member of the 28th Battalion to be Killed in Action was Saskatoon's assistant postmaster, 30-year-old Private Frederick Reginald Smith (Reg. 74122) of "D" Company – the same company as Sergeant Bateman. Smith was a big man, and similar to Bateman, originally from Ireland but had Attested in Winnipeg although working in Saskatoon. Private Smith was hit by a trench mortar shell on 27 September 1915, just his second day in the lines – was grievously wounded, never recovered consciousness and died shortly thereafter. A couple 28th Battalion men had been wounded by snipers previously and two other men would die of wounds from snipers in the following two days – but Private Smith was the battalion's first fatal casualty. The laconic entry in the 28th Battalion war diary stated the following:

*26 September 1915.*

*Trenched F2 to C4 and Supports*

2 AM *Relief of the 15th Battalion was completed and the Companies detailed take over their respective duties.*

*The day was generally quiet with the exception of intermittent burst of rifle and machine gun fire, Sniping was fairly constant from dusk till midnight + One man wounded by sniper.*

7.00 *Trenches bombarded at G2 by trench mortars – one man killed – one wounded.*

Conditions were rough. Nevertheless, the general rotation in the Front Lines provided the battalion opportunity to become accustomed to something approaching the normal trench routine. Casualties were just becoming a new reality. On 8 October 1915 the 28th Battalion suffered major casualties from the exploding of a German mine under their firing line. Sergeant Bateman was not wounded nor injured, but this event led to a planned

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<sup>4</sup> *SS Zeeland* was a British and Belgian ocean liner of Dutch origin. The *SS Zeeland* was changed to *SS Northland* while her sister ship the *Vaderland* was renamed *SS Southland*. The name changes were to sound less German. Served as British troop ship during the Great War. Built in 1900 and scrapped in 1930. Sometimes referred to as *HMT Northland*. The ship reverted to *SS Zeeland* after the war. Major Bateman sailed to Europe twice on both sister ships – first on the *SS Northland* with the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion and later on the *SS Southland* with the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

response by the new 28th Battalion early in the New Year. In the meantime, the Battalion held its ground and blunted the German infantry attack following the blowing of their mine.

*October 8, 1916.*

*Battalion in trenches fairly quiet all day until about 5.30 pm when enemy exploded mine under G1 and G2 of our trench causing great damage to this part - killing 21 and wounding 33. A heavy bombardment immediately took place on both sides but the enemy was unable to advance upon our damaged position and were eventually silenced.*

*The work of rescuing wounded digging them out of positions in which they had been buried was most difficult and was carried on all night being completed by early morning.*

*October 9, 1916.*

*Battalion busy repairing their damaged position – recovering bodies that had been buried the previous night and burying the same. Some artillery duals took place during the afternoon when we lost four men killed and five wounded.*

Almost immediately, the 28th Battalion began planning for some form of retaliation against this German mine explosion. It was decided to plan and conduct a “Minor Operation” in the form of a night trench raid on opportune sections of the German Front-Line. Volunteers were selected and trained and billeted together to form up as a team. Models of the targeted areas were constructed; the men practised the planned raid and their specific roles, coupled with the range of objectives the raid was to achieve.

While revenge was a dominant motivator for the rank and file – the Battalion officers were also interested in any placement of poisonous gas and if any additional new mining trenches were under construction.

Documented in the 28th Battalion’s war diary, and presented in part below, were the objectives of the trench raid in assumed order of priority – two Canadian battalions would attack at the same time but in different locations – a dark and stormy night would dictate the date. The Battalion trench raid team removed all unit identification prior to the attack to limit the information which might be obtained from any of their casualties who might have to be left in the German trenches.

*29 January 1916.*

*The 28th (N.W.) Battalion and the 29th (Vancouver) will each carry out a Minor Operation on their Front with the following particular objectives: -*

- 1. (a) To obtain prisoners for identification.*  
*(b) To ascertain if Gas has been installed on our Front, and if possible, to bring back a Gas Cylinder.*  
*(c) To destroy Enemy Works.*  
*(d) To ascertain if any mining is being carried on.*  
*(e) To kill the enemy, and so weaken his morale.*
- 2. The points to be attacked will be chosen by Battalions after careful reconnaissance where the enemy wire is the thinnest.*
- 3. There will be no artillery preparation and wire will be cut by hands.*
- 4. The assaults will be timed simultaneously and take place on the first stormy night after January 28-29, the date to be decided by Brigade Headquarters. Time of assault is that at which parties will reach the enemy parapet after having made all preliminary arrangements such as Wire Cutting, report of own wire, etc.*

On 31 January 1916, the trench raid by the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion went ahead as planned and was judged very successful. It was estimated the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion inflicted at least 39 enemy killed versus 9 casualties to themselves. The 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion reported at least 11 enemy killed and an unknown number killed in underground dugouts from grenades. A number of reports were prepared detailing many aspects of the events in the trench, the results and lessons learned. Below was the immediate entry into the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary:

*31 January 1916.*

*At 1.20 party wired back cutting of enemy's wire was completed by scouts; raiding party now started to take up previously arranged positions; at 2.30 party rushed German trench and first bomb thrown; the fight at once became furious; enemy were manning their front line heavily, and our men inflicted heavy casualties by bombing, bayonets, rifle and revolver fire; raiding party staying in the trenches 8 minutes, took some prisoners but unfortunately during the general fight these were killed; their equipment however was brought in along with other articles belonging to the enemy from which we were able to determine that the enemy opposite were the 64th Prussian Guard; our casualties were 3 killed, 1 missing and 5 wounded; raid considered very successful; simultaneous with this raid the one on our right carried out a similar enterprise; they were lucky in meeting less resistance and brought back 3 prisoners and their casualties were light; during these raids the bombardment by both sides was very heavy, but we were fortunate in receiving no casualties from this source.*

The remainder of February 1916 was characterized by continued cold and wet conditions with significant numbers of officers and men again on Sick Parade. The German line was also largely quiet. Nonetheless, observation of the planning, preparation and objective setting undertaken by the officers of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion should have imprinted on the mindset of then Sergeant Bateman. The records do not mention Sergeant Bateman; so, we may infer he was not directly involved in this planned trench raid – but would have witnessed it.

On 3 March 1916, Sergeant Bateman was “*Transferred to Base*” on being ordered to report to G.O.C. Canada and “*Taken on Strength*” with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Reserve Battalion the next day. His orders were “*To return to Canada to take a commission in Universities Battalion and to Command Saskatchewan Company. Authority W.O. (War Office) letter 121/Overseas/1705 (A.G.4.a) d/4<sup>th</sup> March 1916 and telegram General Carson<sup>5</sup> 25-3-16.*” The German underground mine explosion and the successful Trench Raid were likely lasting impressions on Sergeant Bateman.

It has been suggested the president of the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Walter Murray himself, had initiated the request to bring Sergeant and Professor Bateman back to Saskatoon for form “B” Company of the pending 196<sup>th</sup> (Western Universities) Infantry Battalion. Sergeant Bateman was offered a commission as first Captain and later Major of “B” Company. A platoon to “B” Company will come from Brandon College.

When Captain Reginald J. G. Bateman, Attested for a second time in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on 29 May 1916 under his “*Officers’ Declaration Paper*” and before the new Officer Commanding, Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay<sup>6</sup>; he himself also just returned from the Western Front as 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of the 27<sup>th</sup> CEF Battalion (City of Winnipeg). They were the only two officers; a medical doctor and a professor of English literature, with actual battle experience in the Great War – at least with a perspective from the trenches in Flanders. There was a third 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion officer briefly on staff, who technically, had a modicum of experience near the Western Front, but as a “*Paymaster*” who developed “*shell shock*” from this one-month experience back of the Front Line.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, Major Bateman was first absorbed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. In an interesting turn, Major Bateman filed a “*Confidential report on Staff Course at Bedford*” to the

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<sup>5</sup> Major-General Sir John Wallace CARSON, Kt, CB Special Representative Minister of Militia in Britain. Canadian mining magnate.

<sup>6</sup> It is intimated Lt.-Colonel MacKay may have travelled from Winnipeg to Saskatoon to install Major Bateman and a few other of the more senior officers. Conversely, this authorizing signature may have occurred at Camp Hughes.

General Staff on 20 April 1916. There was no record of this report nor whom or why it might have been commissioned. Did he offer this report himself or was he commissioned to observe and write this report?

In order to transfer to the Front, Major Bateman reverted in rank to Lieutenant and proceeded overseas to join the 46<sup>th</sup> (Southern Saskatchewan) Battalion on 23 June 1917 and was Taken-on-Strength in the field the next day. Lieut. Bateman arrived while the following battalion activities (war diary below) were taking place and a new battle was about to begin. Lieut. LeRoy, also from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion was already with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion and leading a working party that evening.

*24 June 1917 11 p.m.*

*Enemy artillery was active during the day in barraging our front line and shelling with heavies. Our Artillery, with Stokes and Machine Gun co-operation placed a 10-minute barrage on enemy lines at 10 a.m. Our heavies have been active all day. In the evening an operation was carried out by this battalion in conjunction with an operation by the 137th Brigade, 46th Division, vide. 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade 0.0.69, appendix 11 and Battalion 0.0.77 appendix 12). Attached hereto is report by C.O. on this operation (appendix No. 13). A working party of 4 Officers and 200 O.R. reported to Lieut. HICKING at 10.30 p.m. for work in deepening and extending CANINE Trench. A second part of 4 Officers and 150 O.R. reported to Lieut. LEROY at B.H.Q. at 10 p.m. This party worked on a Communication Trench at the QUARRY PIT.*

For most of July 1917 the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion was engaged in training activities, some sporting events and more training. Nevertheless, at the end of July a new battalion movement order was anticipated. At this time, the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in position about 3 kilometers west of the City of Lens and the future site of the Battle of Hill 70. Presented below were the war diary comments preceding the pending attack the next morning; followed by the report of the following day. Lieut. Bateman will not witness this attack – it is supposed he was wounded with all the other B Company (B. Coy) officers just a few hours before the attack.

*LIEVIN, M.23.D.20.65, Sheet.36.c. / S.W.1.Ed.9a, 1/10.000*

*20 August 1917 11 p.m.*

*Our heavies bombarded the SCHOOL HOUSE from 7 to 11 a.m. Scout Officer with patrol investigated row of Houses at SCHOOL HOUSE and found them unoccupied. Orders were issued to B. Coy to establish posts there to deny them to the enemy. This was carried out but post had to withdraw during the afternoon owing to heavy enemy shelling. During the afternoon hostile raiding party bombed out post at N.19.d.05.85 and in the ensuing fight casualties inflicted on both sides. The bombing party was driven off. Considerable enemy movement was seen around the SCHOOL HOUSE indicating that it was occupied. A patrol under Lieut. Walker was sent out at 9.30 p.m. to reconnoitre SCHOOL HOUSE so as to give latest information re situation at this point to 50th Battalion which was later to attack this area. Patrol found the place unoccupied but came under very heavy rifle fire from a point about 15 yards E. where ALOOF trench crosses embankment. Report of this was received at 1.55 a.m. 21-8-17. On the 19th [August] B. Coy was relieved by 50th Battalion and at 10 p.m. 20-8-17 Companies commenced to assemble in jumping off positions along BELL ST and behind posts S. of SCHOOL HOUSE in preparation for attack timed for 4.35 a.m. 21-8-17 (0.0. No.89, appendix No.6.)*

On 21 August 1917, Lieut. Bateman was “Reported from Base wounded” and was first admitted to an unnamed Field Ambulance station, then a Casualty Clearing Station before being “Admitted No. 20 General Hospital-Camiers” the same day with a Gun Shot Wound to the right thigh – notations mention there was no damage to muscles or nerves and the wound was not considered serious. The cause was artillery shrapnel and as the Battalion advanced on Aconite Trench. Three days later he was transferred to No. 3 London General Hospital in England. On 5 September 1917 Lieut. Bateman was granted 3 weeks leave to England and he likely returns to Ireland to visit his family as part of his recovery.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary sums up the operation in its 25 August 1917 notation below.

*25 August 1917 – 11 p.m.*

*Today was very quiet throughout and there was no change in the disposition of the Battalion. Relief of the 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade by the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade took place tonight and our relief by the 87th Battalion was complete by 12.25 a.m.*

26-8-17 (O.O. No. 90 appendix No. 8.) No casualties during the relief despite heavy artillery fire. Our relief troops were conveyed from LIEVEN by motor truck to CHATEAU de la HAIE, where quarters were taken up in VANCOVER CAMP. All men reported in by 3 a.m. 26th.

Total casualties for the entire tour were as follows: - Major Baker, H.G. killed. Capt. Lowe, J.W. killed. Lieut. Gunning, R.H. killed. Lieut. Walker, A.R. wounded. Lieut. Hepburn W.R. wounded. Lieut. Riley F.R. wounded. Lieut. Gilpin, C.R. wounded. Lieut. Dixon, H.A.S., wounded. Lieut. Hollington, G. F., wounded. Lieut. Bateman, R.J.G. wounded. Lieut. Newman, H.A. wounded. O.R. Killed 35. Wounded 216. Missing and believed killed 1 O.R. Gassed 15 O.R.

Appendix No. 9. are maps showing dispositions as handed over to 87th Battalion.

Appendix No. 10 is legend of the entire tour.

After the Battle of Hill 70, the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion had a quiet period until it moved north into the Passchendaele sector in mid-October 1917. Reinforcements arrived and were taken into training. By early September 1917 the battalion was again re-staffed with 33 officers and 1,018 Other Ranks while training continued. Some members were on course while others got Leave to England. Lieutenant Bateman was still recovering from his wounds and would not re-join the battalion until later in November 1917. Senior officer inspections at the end of October suggested some new action would be found for the battalion. Passchendaele had already exhausted the British Expeditionary force and the ANZACS.

The first introductions to the Passchendaele sector were foreboding. Two of the five reconnaissance team members became casualties on 20 October. The next day two more 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion officers were wounded coming through Ypres to get to the Passchendaele sector as noted in the war diary below. Lieut. Bateman was still in recovery and does not move north with his battalion.

STABLES AREA, Ref. HAZENBROUCK, 1/100.000, Ed.3

20 October 1917, 11 p.m.

Lieut. PHILPOTT with 2 Scouts and 2 Runners proceeded to area to be taken over on the unit moving into the line. This Officer was wounded and one Scout killed on the way into the line. The Quartermaster and 4 Other Ranks proceeded to POTIJZE this afternoon to reconnoitre area to be taken over by Battalion Base and Lieut. PHILLIPS and representatives of each Company proceeded later to reconnoitre the forward area and billets for battalion and act as guides. The Battalion was inspected by Corps Commander at 11 a.m. to-day after which a march past was carried out. The Corps Commander expressed great satisfaction on the clean and neat appearance of all ranks. The afternoon was devoted to preparation for move the following day.

POTIJZE, Reference Sheet HAZENBROUCK, Ed.2

21 October 1917, 11 p.m.

The Battalion moved from STABLE AREA to POTIJZE East of YPRES to-day as per O.O.103 (Appendix 6.) The move was complete by 7 p.m. by which time the Transport had reported in. Companies arrived 1 p.m. Major GYLES was wounded coming through YPRES and Lieut. SIMONDS slightly wounded at the same time

Casualties for the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion in their 26 October attack at Passchendaele were high. The war diary comment for 27 October neglected to include the fact many wounded had been left on the battlefield. This incident will be remembered, will be corrected in the next battle, but will prove costly for another former member of the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion later.

PASSCHENDAELE, D.16.b.9.1. 1/10.000

26 October, 1917, 11 p.m.

The attack was made at 5.40 a.m. and satisfactory progress was made. Story of operation is Appendix No. 9. The Battalion was relieved in the front line at 9 p.m. by 47th Battalion and went into support position with B.H.Q d.15.b. PILLBOX.

PASSCHENDAELE – PILLBOX, D.15.b

27 October, 1917, 11 p.m.

*Owing to heavy casualties in Officers eight of the reserve Officers left at Transport Base reported to the Unit this morning. The day was quiet and in our area there was little shelling. Burial parties and carrying parties for wounded were in the forward area all day.*

*PASSCHENDAELE – PILLBOX, D.15.b*

*28 October, 1917, 11 p.m.*

*Burial parties were in forward area again to-day and reported the area was cleared of all the casualties of the Battalion. The 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade was relieved by the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade tonight. The 46th Battalion being relieved by support Companies of 78th and 85th Battalions. Relief was complete by 9.2 p.m. and the Battalion went into shelters and tents at Transport lines at POTIJZE (0.0 No.106 appendix 10.)*

Captain O. E. LeRoy, the geologist, leading "D" Company of the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, also formerly with the original 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion was seriously wounded in the abdomen and neck on 28 October 1917 and died of wounds almost immediately. Meanwhile a party of 25 men under Lieut. Armes, the Manitoban chemistry professor, were detailed to assist the burial party on the battlefield. Lieut. Armes, once a Captain in the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion before taking a demotion to go overseas, reported more wounded on the battlefield, went forward again to assist in their recovery and was very seriously wounded in both legs. Back at base, Lieut. Bateman was promoted to Captain on 27 October 1917 and will be Taken-on-Strength by the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion in early November 1917 but will miss the Battle of Passchendaele.

In the aftermath of Passchendaele, the Battalion's war diary noted the resumption of training, the return of now Captain Bateman coupled with a roster strength of significantly diminished from late September 1917 as noted earlier. There will be fewer familiar faces for Captain Bateman on this return to duty.

*8 November 1917, 11 p.m.*

*Specialist and Company Training as for the 7th was carried out to-day. Advice has been received that the Battalion will move to the POTIJZE area about 12th inst. Lieut. Bateman and Lieut. Coats reported as reinforcements to-day. Lieut. Bateman was wounded on August 21st in the advance on ACONITE Trench.*

*9 November 1917, 11 p.m.*

*Strength of the Unit to-day is – 29 Officers, 671 other ranks including details away from Unit of 6 Officers and 137 other ranks. The Battalion went through Gas this afternoon at B.H.Q. under Battalion Gas N.C.O.*

The remainder of November 1917 and December 1917 sees the Battalion in training, reorganization and transit 30 miles SSW and back to the Bruay-en-Artois sector in France. Two new officers and 293 Other Ranks arrived as reinforcements to make up for the casualties of Passchendaele – the Battalion was now only about 100 men under strength. New clothing was allotted and the men enjoy the baths. Training included shooting range and poison gas training. The year ends quietly. January 1918 was equally quiet with training and some improvements in front line trench barbed wire. A number of senior N.C.O.s were offered officer commissions and proceeded to England for officer training.

On Valentines Day 1918 the Battalion staged a minor raid on the German lines with 4 wounded and 2 missing and later on 18 February five men were affected by gas but with no casualties. Capt. Bateman went on Leave to England from 22 February until 10 March 1918 but was officially recognized for his promotion as noted in the war diary below just before his departure. He was one of two former 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion officers to be promoted – both he and Lieut. Shaw had previously taken demotions to Lieutenants in order to go overseas.

*ALBERTA CAMP, 18 March 1918, 11 p.m.*

*The present strength of the Battalion to-day, including attaches is 47 Officers, 1,054 other ranks. While at HOUDAIN 95 other ranks reinforcements were received from England. 11 of these were retained and 84 sent to 4th Div. Wing C.C.R.C. exchange for which was received three days ago including many casuals rejoining. Battalion establishment is now increased to 46 Officers, 1,072 Other ranks from 32 officers, 983 other ranks.*



*The following promotions appeared to-day: -*

*Lieut. C.M. Ackland to be temporary Captain and absorbed 29/10/17*

*A/Capt. P.L. Barter to be temporary Captain 26/10/17*

*Lieut. E.M. Johnston to be A/Captain 20/12/17*

*Lieut. J. T. Shaw to be A/Captain 5/11/1917*

[Originally from 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion]

*Lieut. R.J.G. Bateman to be A/Captain 27/10/1917*

[Originally from 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion]

*Lieut. M.J. Blair to be A/Captain 10/11/1917*

*Training was continued to-day two companies carrying out Bullet and Bayonet practice on the ranges and two companies Tactical Scheme under the C.O. Specialist classes were continued as laid down.*

For the remainder of the spring and summer of 1918, the 46th Battalion was quietly engaged in training exercises, a few minor raids, sports and shooting competitions and work details in their sector. Between 18 June and 14 July 1918, Captain Bateman was “On Course at 1<sup>st</sup> Army Musketry Camp”.

Matters all changed beginning with events from 1 August 1918 and leading up to 8 August and the Battle of Amiens. From the Battle of Amiens until the Armistice – this final stage of the Great War is often referred to as “*The Hundred Day Offensive*”. The 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion began a series of extended night marches from the Lens sector to the Amiens sector from 1-7 August – arriving at their assembly positions (U.27.b.80.80) at 2:00 am on 8 August, 1918 in order to move into the GENTELLES LINE at 6:20 am and the start of the Battle of Amiens. Captain Bateman was unharmed during all actions in August. By the end of August 1918, the accumulated battle casualties, based on previous battles, were acceptable for objectives achieved and included the following;

2	Officers Killed	8	Other Ranks Killed
7	Officers Wounded	127	Other Ranks Wounded
1	Officers Died of Wounds	3	Other Ranks – Accidental Wounds
0	Officers Missing	0	Other Ranks – Missing
		23	Other Ranks – NYD Gas
		28	Other Ranks – Field Ambulance -Sick
		2	Other Ranks – Accidental Injury

After the Battle of Amiens, the next battle for the Canadian Corps was the attack on the Hindenburg Line of defensive positions - the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary below outlined their specific attack on the Drocourt-Queant Line (aka *Wotung Stellung*) element. To illustrate the intensity of this battle, 7 Victoria Crosses were awarded to Canadian Soldiers on 2 September 1918 and 5,622 Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded. Captain Bateman was leading “B” Company of the Battalion into this attack.

*Sept. 2nd*

#### *ADVANCE and ATTACK*

*The task set the Battalion was to follow the 47th and 50th Battalions, leapfrog them on them on the DROCOURT-QUEANT LINE and capture the Village of DURY. Frontage 1000 yards and depth of penetration to RED LINE 1300 yards.*

#### *METHOD OF ATTACK.*

*It was decided to carry out the task by attacking on a 2-company frontage in four waves, each Company on a 2-platoon frontage; distance between waves 75 yards, “C” Company, Capt. Blair, on Right, “D” Company, Capt. Shaw, on Left, supported by “A” Company, Capt. Brown and “B” Company, Capt. Bateman, respectively.*

*“BATTALION HEADQUARTERS”*

<sup>7</sup> 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary - [https://cgwp.uvic.ca/diaries/viewer.php?u=46th\\_canadian\\_infantry\\_battalion&m=09&y=1918&i=e001113336](https://cgwp.uvic.ca/diaries/viewer.php?u=46th_canadian_infantry_battalion&m=09&y=1918&i=e001113336)

*At 7.30 a.m. Battalion Headquarters moved forward to the DROCOURT-QUEANT LINE and were established at P.21.c.40.90. On arrival there I found that the 47th and 50th Battalions had made their objectives and was informed by an Officer of the 47th Battalion who came back that the Battalion had captured DURY. I sent a message to Brigade and to the 44th Battalion advising timed 8.20 a.m. I proceeded to the left and found 2nd Essex in the DROCOURT-QUEANT SUPPORT LINE and an Officer informed me that there was a Company of this Battalion North of the Village. Lieut. Scott was detailed to report as to the connection with Flanks and Lieut. Crowe went forward to report on the situation in Front Line. The DROCOURT-QUEANT LINE, QUEANT SUPPORT LINE and posts in front of the Village were being subjected to heavy machine gun fire and to artillery fire. To deal with machine gun fire a request was sent to Headquarters to send up Stokes Guns and ammunition so that an endeavour might be made to smother machine gun fire. Communication forward was also difficult and dangerous owing to machine gun fire and sniping. At 11.30 a.m. Captains Brown and Bateman came to Battalion Headquarters and advised that the Support Line was very shallow and was being subjected to heavy machine gun fire. I asked them to hold on taking as much cover as possible until the situation was relieved by the push forward of the leap-frogging Battalions but to make the best dispositions possible to avoid casualties."*

On 3 September 1918 the 46th Battalion was out of the line for a quick rest and refit but saw the opportunity to move forward again. The detailed war diary outlines the events leading up the heavy German artillery shelling which lead to the death of Captain R.J.G. Bateman in the late afternoon near the doorway of the Battalion Headquarters. The war for this professor of English literature from the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion was over.

*"3rd Sept. 4.15 a.m.*

*Battalion Battle Headquarters moved to QUEANT SUPPORT LINE at P.21.d.50.45.*

*4.45 a.m.*

*Assembly reported complete by all Companies. Lieut. Crowe (Scout Officer) went forward to ascertain that the assembly was complete and informed the Commanding Officer at Zero hour that the assembly had been completed and the 11th Brigade on the Right informed him that the operation was postponed. At the same time a message came through from Battalion Headquarters that the operation had been postponed 24 hours and I went forward and saw to the withdrawal of the assembled Battalion, directing them to take up their positions as before the assembly. The Battalion were back in their positions at 6.20 a.m. and Brigade advised. In view of the fact that no opposition had greeted the assembly opposite the Battalion I went forward to the Front Line Companies and instructed them to send out Patrols and endeavour to get in touch with the enemy and report. This action was subsequently ordered by message from Brigade B.M. 435. I thereafter went round all Companies, advised them as to the situation and the possibility of a move forward and directed that all should be prepared to move forward when orders received. Subsequently I advised the G.O.C. as to what I had done and received instructions to conform with the move of the 11th Brigade on the Right and the 44th Battalion on the Left, and that the Battalion was not to be responsible for the Village of SAUDEMONT. At 11.15 a.m. the Battalion moved forward on their objective, the GREEN LINE, in in artillery formation, proceeded by myself, Lieut. Scott and Scouts. The advance was made on a 500 yards frontage and under very heavy enemy shelling, causing quite a number of casualties. In moving forward touch was established with the 44th Battalion on the Left and also with the 87th Battalion on the Right. The Battalion was led on to their position in the GREEN LINE and dug in. At 12.10 pm. The Battalion were in position in the GREEN LINE. Battalion Headquarters was temporarily established in QUARRY at Q.13.c.20.85 and Brigade informed that the Battalion were on their objective. Steps were immediately taken to distribute the Battalion in depth for defensive purposes and a meeting of Company Commanders has held there and instructions given. The area occupied by the Battalion was very heavily shelled and also the vicinity of Headquarters and about 5.20 p.m. a shell burst at the door of the temporary Headquarters and caused casualties, Capt. Bateman being killed, Major J. A. Hope, M.C. wounded, myself (Major J.S. Rankin, A/CO) slightly wounded, and 1 other rank, 10th T.M.B., killed."*

# Major Norman Richard Wilson

Teacher – Winnipeg - Company Commander  
Single

**Major Norman Richard Wilson** was a single teacher living in Winnipeg but with an association with the University of Manitoba including a couple years in Canadian Officer Training Cadet program. As such, then Captain Wilson was likely part of A-Company of the 196th Western Universities Battalion which later trained at Camp Hughes east of Brandon, Manitoba. First Attesting as a Captain on 10 May 1916 in Winnipeg, he was promoted to Major on 19 October 1916 at Camp Hughes and just prior to the 196th Battalion entraining for Halifax and then England.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

Training courses included “*Qualified 1<sup>st</sup> Class at East Command School of Musketry at Hythe*” and also in the Mechanism of Lewis Gun between 8 March and 31 March 1917. This was followed by going “*On Command to officers Siege Course, Horsham*” on 17 June 1917 – two days prior he had already been Taken-off-Strength from the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) and posted to the Saskatchewan Regimental Depot; with a further notation on file to be transferred to the Imperial Army, Royal Garrison Artillery effective 17 June 1917. Major Wilson relinquished his temporary commission on joining the Imperial Army.

Now no longer with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, his personnel records are closed. A cryptic notation suggests he survived the Great War.

# Major Hector John MacLeod

Electrical Engineering, Lecturer – University of Alberta – 2<sup>nd</sup> Company Commander

**Captain Hector John MacLeod**, was a 29-year-old, single university lecturer in electrical engineering at the University of Alberta when he Attested on 6 May 1916 in Edmonton to become part of C-Company within the 196th Western Universities Battalion. Born in Prince Edward Island, it appears he and his parents were new residents in Alberta with the family in the Peace River District. With prior experience with the 15th Light Horse McGill University COTC, Major MacLeod had a modicum of military training. He was promoted to Major on 19 October 1916 at Camp Hughes and this would be just prior to the 196th Battalion entraining for Halifax and then on to England.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

While riding a horse near Seaford, the horse slipped and fell on Major MacLeod breaking his right tibia and fibula. It was a severe break but was not thought to be a permanent disability. Major MacLeod was admitted to the Canadian Military Hospital at Eastbourne on 14 February until 30 April 1917 and then transferred to Perkins Bull Hospital in London until at least 31 July 1917. His final admittance was to the Canadian Convalescent Officer's Hospital at Broadstairs, Kent until 10 September 1917 when he was ordered to report to the Saskatchewan Regimental Depot for assignment.

On 15 September 1917 Major MacLeod was Struck-off-Strength on posting to the Saskatchewan Regimental Depot at Bramshott, England and then transferred to the Imperial Royal Garrison Artillery at Bramshott on 20 October 1917 but only after taking a demotion back to Captain.

Being attached to Imperial Forces, his records in the Canadian Expeditionary Force cease to be recorded by Canada. It is not clear if he saw action overseas or not.

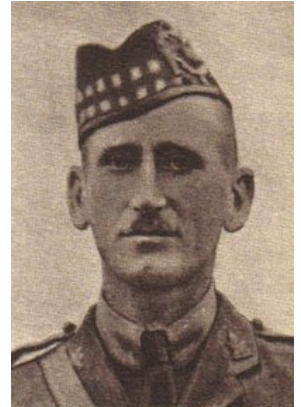
## † Captain Osmond Edgar LeRoy

Geologist - Geological Survey of Canada - Company Commander  
43 years old

**Captain Osmond Edgar LeRoy** was a 43-year-old, single geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada based in Ottawa and with a background in mining – perhaps too old to be fighting in the trenches. He was Taken-on-Strength in Vancouver and joined the 196th Battalion at Camp Hughes – likely as part of D-Company associated with the University of British Columbia.

It is reasonable to assume both Major Brock (2<sup>nd</sup> in Command) and Captain LeRoy, both being geologists and both having served in the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders Battalion, would have known each other prior to enlisting.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.



With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

On 25 April 1917, and still attached to the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion, Captain LeRoy was “*Conducting Duty to France*”, the purpose of which remains a mystery. However; on 25 May 1917, Captain LeRoy was Struck-off-Strength from the 19th Reserve Battalion on proceeding overseas to the 46th Battalion – he also reverts in rank back to a Lieutenant to get an overseas appointment.

Casualties in the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, as listed below, were high in May to early June 1917 and replacement officers and men were needed to bring it up to strength. As a result, this led to the six new Lieutenants joining the Battalion in the field on 1 June 1917. Two of these replacements were from the officer corps of the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion – Lieut. O.E. LeRoy and Lieut. H. P Armes. LeRoy was a geologist from British Columbia and Armes a chemistry professor from Manitoba.

*In Reserve., Souave Valley  
S.8.d.4.2., 8-6-17 11 p.m.*

*Party of 50 O.R. under Lt. Hewitt reported to 44th Battalion at dusk for carrying Stokes ammunition and a party of 40 O.R. from Transport Lines formed part of a Brigade working Party. Pay was issued during the afternoon. Casualties have been reported as follows since 4th. May 1917:*

*Lieut. Cattell, R.P. Killed. 6-5-17  
Lieut. Johnston B.A. Wd. 5-5-17  
Lieut. Bingham G.H.K Wounded 5-5-17  
Lieut. Peirce A.H.M. Killed 5-5-17*

*Lieut. Hall R.H. Wounded 5-5-17  
Lieut. Newman H.A. Wounded 5-5-17  
Lieut. MacGillivray C.J. Wounded 5-5-17  
Lieut. Johnston E.M. Wounded at duty 5-5-17  
O.R. Killed 26. Wounded 111. Missing 3.*

Lieutenant LeRoy was Taken-on-Strength in the field on 29 May 1917 but it took a couple days for him to reach the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the field as noted in the war diary below:

*Before Lens, Front. Line. S.6.a.6.9,*

*Sheet 36c., S.W.1/20/000.*

*1-6-17 11 p.m.*

*At midnight 31st May/1st June Gas was projected into the enemy's line, with good effect. Some of these fell short, and in consequence a number of our men were sent to Field Ambulance. The enemy shelled our front line and supports intermittently during the day. Lieuts. Elliot R.H, Kennedy W.W., Armes H.P., Dixon W.H.S, LeRoy O.E., and Gunning G.H., joined the battalion for duty today.*

Five officers from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion will serve with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion – and all five will either be killed or wounded. Briefly admitted to No. 17 Canadian Field Ambulance on 7 July 1917 with a “*contusion over right eye*” from an accident and Lieutenant LeRoy was released shortly thereafter. Either by casualties or merit, Lieutenant LeRoy was promoted back to Temporary Captain on 21 August 1917 and during the Battle of Hill 70.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary notation for 21 August 1917 comments on all B-Company Officers becoming casualties; this likely had a direct result in Lieutenant LeRoy being promoted back to Captain. Lieutenant Armes was another of the original officers from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion; he being in A-Company from the University of Manitoba. Lieutenant and now Captain LeRoy, seemed to be attracted to the combat zones – in this case being the Battle of Hill 70 near Lens, France. During the attack, all members of the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion wore their gas masks into combat – heavy use of poison gas was anticipated by both sides.

*21 August 1917*

*11 p.m.*

*At 2 a.m. word was received that all B. Coy. Officers had become casualties through heavy shelling. Major GYLES, Lieut. ARMES and Lieut. WALKER were ordered to take over the Company. The attack was launched at 4.30 a.m. (Special report per appendix No. 7.). Enemy artillery was very active all day and was quieted by our retaliation.*

The Battle of Passchendaele proved to be a bloody experience for the “*Suicide Battalion*” and Captain O. E. LeRoy was no exception. The actions on 28 October 1917 are described in the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary and include the following;

*“The barrage was sufficient in density, and evenly distributed, but was inaccurate in depth. Many casualties to the attacking troops were caused by shells falling amongst them, both on the assembly position, in the advance, and on the objective. The advance did not proceed too far, as it was clearly laid down at the 55 contour on the spur towards D.12.Central, so that there could be no such thing as advancing too far into the barrage. Again, the barrage made clearly seen lifts, and then came back on troops. One instance of this happened when “D” Company was attacking the strong point on the PASSCHENDAELE ROAD. The barrage lifted, and the men were putting rifle grenades into the strong point when down came the barrage on the attacking party, causing numerous casualties. Men who pressed forward under such conditions, are remarkable.”*

*“All four Officers of this Company (Note: D Company included Captain O.E. Leroy and Lieuts. A.J. Elliott, D. Grierson & R. Elliott) were wounded in the advance, and one of them (Lieut. R. W. Elliott) after supervising the establishment of the line of posts reported back to Battalion Headquarters with information as to the situation. He reported Capt. LeRoy had been dangerously wounded, and the Company reduced to not more than 40 men with no Officers nor N.C.O.s other than one Corporal. This N.C.O. (Cpl. K.W. Shove) gave very valuable services.”<sup>8</sup>*

<sup>8</sup> War Diary, 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, [https://cgwp.uvic.ca/diaries/viewer.php?u=46th\\_canadian\\_infantry\\_battalion&m=10&y=1917&i=e001112675](https://cgwp.uvic.ca/diaries/viewer.php?u=46th_canadian_infantry_battalion&m=10&y=1917&i=e001112675)

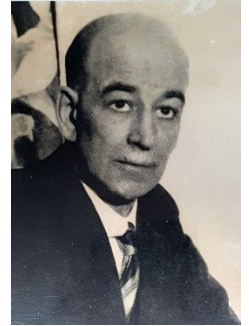
Wounded during the advance of his company, and possibly by “*friendly fire*”, Capt. LeRoy was admitted to No. 44 Casualty Clearing Station with a Gun Shot Wound to neck and abdomen and died shortly thereafter. In the day, about three-quarters of all abdomen wounds were fatal. A day earlier, on 27 October 1917, Lieutenant Henry Percy Armes (former Captain - 196th Western Universities Battalion) was seriously wounded by a high explosive shell in the “*Support Line*” of the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion – and this likely referring to his position approaching “B” Company Headquarters. Lieutenant Armes had one leg amputated at the hip and the other leg was shattered but was later saved.

The 46th Battalion war diary entry of 23 November 1917 notes the arrival of 2 Officers and 293 other ranks to replace casualties from its few days at Passchendaele. As of this date the Battalion strength was up to 32 Officers and 933 other ranks. Two days later a second influx of 16 new Lieutenants arrives including 3 new officers formerly with the 196th Western Universities Battalion. (Cleland, Armstrong and Boyles). Total Battalion strength reached 981 men as of 25 November 1917 and while the unit was out of the line for reorganization and training.

## † † Captain Henry Percy Armes

Professor of Chemistry – University of Manitoba - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of Company and Musketry Officer  
32 years old, single COTC

**Captain Henry Percy Armes** was a 32-year-old, single professor of chemistry at the University of Manitoba when he Attested with the 196th Western Universities Battalion, in A-Company. With a modest background in the Canadian Officer Training Cadet program he was appointed a Captain, 2nd in Command of Company and Musketry Officer. It is assumed he had previous experience in the “*shooting sports*” of the day. He will be wounded twice; once in the face but remaining on duty and the second wounding at the Battle of Passchendaele will be very serious and leave him with a severe disability for the remainder of his life.



Born in England 1884, he graduated from Leeds University in 1905 and in 1906 was the *1851 Exhibition Research Scholar* which has to present day produced 12 Nobel Prizes in chemistry and physics to the present. Professor Armes was granted a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Strasbourg, Germany in 1909 and started as a Demonstrator in Chemistry at the University of Manitoba in 1909. As such, he had already a significant academic profile prior to enlistment and a definite future.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

Captain Armes returned from this December training and qualification course at the School of Musketry at Hythe on 21 December 1916 and then “*Qualified in Musketry and in Mechanism of Lewis Gun*” on 23 December 1916. As of 31 December 1916, and with the disbandment of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 31 December 1916, he was Taken-on-Strength by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) but reverted in rank from Captain to Lieutenant on 25 May 1917 and proceeded overseas with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

He joined the battalion in the field with fellow 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion officer Armes on 1 June 1917 as recorded in the war diary of the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion:

*Front. Line. S.6.a.6.9,  
Sheet 36c., S.W.1/20/000.  
1-6-17 11 p.m.*

*At midnight 31st May/1st June Gas was projected into the enemy's line, with good effect. Some of these fell short, and in consequence a number of our men were sent to Field Ambulance. The enemy shelled our front line and supports intermittently during the day. Lieuts. Elliot R.H, Kennedy W.W., Armes H.P., Dixon W.H.S, LeRoy O.E., and Gunning G.H., joined the battalion for duty today.*

Seven weeks later, he was one of two officers sent to take over “B” Company because all its officers had been wounded just prior to the planned attack – it is thought this also included Lieut. Bateman – another professor from the original 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Lieutenant Armes, himself, was slightly wounded in the face during this Battle of Hill 70 but remains on duty. In an ironic twist, this first wounding was noted on his “*Certificate of Service*” papers upon discharge but omits his major wounding in both legs at Passchendaele in October 1917.



During the Battle of Hill 70 the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary included the following statement regarding Lieutenant Armes, “21 August 1917 - 11 p.m. - At 2 a.m. word was received that all B. Coy. Officers had become casualties through heavy shelling. Major GYLES, Lieut. ARMES and Lieut. WALKER were ordered to take over the Company. The attack was launched at 4.30 a.m. (Special report per appendix No. 7.). Enemy artillery was very active all day and was quieted by our retaliation.

Prior to battle on 26 October 1917 the war diary report on operations stated, “Four additional Senior Officers, viz. Capt. S.H. Brocklebank, Lieut. A.K. Olive, Lieutenant H.P. Armes, and Lieutenant E. Sneath, were brought up to Battalion Headquarters to replace possible casualties among the Officers commanding Companies.” This was a second instance where Lieut. Armes was brought in at the last instance as insurance against high officer loss. Later in the war diary report, and likely the following day, details regarding the wounding of Lieutenant Armes were detailed as follows:

*“A second party of twenty-five men was sent forward as a burial party, and Lieut. Armes was detailed to supervise this work. Lieut. Armes reported back early in the afternoon, and as a report was subsequently received that more wounded remained, he and two other Battalion runners, went forward again to the Battle Ground to bring back a report of completion of the work of the caring for the wounded and burial of the dead. On its return journey to LEVI COTTAGES, and when going to “B” Company Headquarter, this party was hit by a shell, and Lieut. Armes and both runners badly injured. The following day passed quietly, and at night the Battalion was relieved by Battalions of the 12th Brigade, and moved back to Camp at POTIJESE.”*

The 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion (South Saskatchewan), and nicknamed the “Suicide Battalion”, had 402 casualties from the battalion’s under-strength of 600 men – or two-thirds of ranks became casualties during the Battle of Passchendaele with Lieutenant being one. Many of the casualties were related to Canadian artillery shells falling short and cutting down their own men. In the case of Lieutenant Armes, it is not clear if he was wounded by either a German or Canadian high explosive artillery shell. Sixty-two men of this total were missing and presumed dead in the swampy conditions of the battlefield.

On 27 October 1917, his personnel file notes he was wounded by a high explosive shell in the “Support Line” – and this likely referring to his position approaching “B” Company Headquarters. Records state he was admitted on 28 October 1917 to first No. 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station, then No. 8 Canadian Field Ambulance and finally transferred onto No. 24 Ambulance Train for evacuation. His right leg was shattered and his left leg was severely damaged. It is suggested he may have lain in the contaminated Passchendaele battlefield mud for several hours before he and the two runners were discovered and evacuated.

Captain Osmond Edgar LeRoy, also with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and also formerly with the original 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion was seriously wounded in the abdomen and neck on 28 October 1917 and died of wounds almost immediately. They joined the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the field on 1 June 1917 and are both grievously wounded or killed a day apart in late October 1917.

The records state on 2 November 1917 that Lieutenant Armes was admitted to No. 2 Stationary Hospital, Abbeville, France and there had been an amputation of the left leg up to the thigh owing to gas gangrene. There will be two subsequent operations. Surprisingly, the shattered right leg was saved but would remain damaged for the remainder of his life. It was noted on 9 November 1917, and just prior to the capture of Passchendaele, that Lieutenant Armes had “been removed from the seriously injured list”.

On 3 December 1917 Lieutenant Armes was admitted to Prince of Wales Hospital, Marylebone with a second operation in February 1918 to “clean up the stump”. The right leg was refusing to mend. On 6 April 1918 he was transferred to Granville Canadian Convalescent Special Hospital – Buxton and in May 1918 he was transferred again to “Roehampton House” in south London and fitted with a “Hangar” artificial leg.

On 20 September 1918, 11 months after being wounded, Lieutenant Armes was Struck-off-Strength from Overseas Military Forces of Canada (OMFC) on transfer to the Canadian Expeditionary Force on being "*Invalided to Canada*" and appears to have been discharged from hospital and in transit to a ship on the same day. On 21 October 1918, and back in Canada, he was finally transferred to No. 10 Manitoba Military Hospital (Tuxedo Park). The hospital at Tuxedo Park was originally the Manitoba Agricultural College from which some of the other officers of the original 196th Battalion originated. His Great War military career came to an end on 25 October 1918 when Lieutenant Henry Percy Armes was Struck-off-Strength No. 10 District Depot. His "*Certificate of Service*" omits his major wounding at Passchendaele and only notes the minor wounded on 21 August 1917 when he remained on duty.

Although severely impacted by his war injuries, Dr. Armes was commanding officer of the Canadian Officers' Training Corps in Manitoba from 1932 to 1938. In 1935 he received the King George V Jubilee Medal and in 1945 was appointed Dean of the University of Manitoba and President two years later. Dr. Armes died on 19 January 1951 in Winnipeg at the age of 67. He was living at his home at 126 Kingsway Avenue – just three miles east of the former No. 10 Military Hospital in Tuxedo Park where he was discharged from hospital 33 years earlier.

All five officers from the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion who transferred to the 46<sup>th</sup> South Saskatchewan Battalion became casualties during their service in the Great War.

# Captain John Payson Oliver

Professor of Engineering – University of Saskatchewan - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of Company  
Married

**Captain John Payson Oliver**, was a Professor of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. His younger brother was the first President of the newly formed Presbyterian Theological College at Saskatchewan; and both Attested with B-Company of the 196th Western Universities Battalion formed in Saskatoon. Captain Oliver had some militia experience with the 105th Saskatoon Fusiliers when he Attested on 25 February 1916. He was Struck-off-Strength from 26 March 1916 until 4 April 1916 while attending a “*Captain’s Course*” prior to movement to Camp Hughes.



After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. However; on 5 May 1917 Captain J. P. Oliver was Struck-off-Strength from the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion on transfer to the Canadian Forestry Corps – he disembarked for France on 11 June 1917 and joined the 42rd Company, Canadian Forestry Corps on 14 June 1917.

Duties continued until 31 December 1917 when he was transferred to the 20<sup>th</sup> Company, Canadian Forestry Corps. In mid-1918, Captain J. P. Oliver was transferred to No. 1 District Workshop, Canadian Forestry Corps on 9 July 1918 for one month. It is speculated this might have involved the design and construction of bridges for the Canadian Corps. On 9 September 1918 Captain Oliver was back with the 20<sup>th</sup> Company, Canadian Forestry Corps before another transfer to the 54th Company of the Canadian Forestry Corps on 12 September 1918 for one day and then returned to No. 1 District Workshop of the Canadian Forestry Corps until 20 December 1918 when posted to Base Detail Canadian Forestry Corps (BDC HQ). On 28 September 1918 he was also “*To be a/Major while commanding a Company*”.

Struck-off-Strength from Overseas Military Forces of Canada (Canadian Forestry Corps) on transfer to the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada on 18 January 1919, he sailed for Canada the same day. He was neither sick nor saw combat during his voluntary service with the Canadian Corps during the Great War.

The University of Manitoba has a photograph of “*Major J.P. Oliver*” with the King and Queen at the CN Station in Winnipeg on 4 June 1939. We can assume he was associated with the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba sometime after discharge from the Great War. He died in April 1944 at the age of 63 years and was buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Winnipeg.

# Captain Edmond Culver Sheppard

Newspaper Editor – 72nd CEF Battalion - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of Company  
26 years old, married with 1-year old son

**Captain Edmond Culver Sheppard** was a 24-year-old, married man with an infant son when he originally attempted to enlist at Valcartier, Quebec on 1 September 1914 with the 23rd Regiment (*The Northern Fusiliers*) of the 1st Contingent but was rejected for undocumented reasons. At the time he was soon to be the managing editor of the *Vancouver Sun* daily newspaper and was living in the Abbotsford Hotel with his family. His father was the founding editor of the *Toronto Saturday Night*.

Index record cards suggest he was “mobilized” on 6 October 1915 as a Lieutenant with an unnamed unit and then transferred to the 72nd Regiment Seaforth Highlanders of Canada on 30 December 1915 – a copy of his “Officer’s Declaration Paper” is on his file. Lieutenant Sheppard transferred to the 196th Western Universities Battalion on 14 April 1916 (likely D-Company) and was promoted to Captain in the 196th Battalion on 6 June 1916 at Camp Hughes just east of Brandon, Manitoba. The 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion also published its own newspaper during its time at Camp Hughes; most likely the efforts of Captain Sheppard.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.



Captain Sheppard first “Qualified at East Canadian School of Musketry, Hythe from 6/2/17 to 3/3/17 (Distinguished) both in musketry and mechanism of Lewis Gun.” Then he “Proceeded “on command” to school of Military Aeronautics, Reading for attachment to Royal Flying Corps as Observer” on 15 March 1917 with a notation on his file “To be Flying Officer (Observer) R.F.C. with seniority from 22.4.17” [22 April 1917]

In another twist, another part of his records includes a brief notation to the effect in “January 1918 Lieutenant Edmund Culver Sheppard, 4<sup>th</sup> C.M.R. reverted from Major 16<sup>th</sup> April 1917 to proceed overseas.” The main personnel file makes no reference to this event and the validity of this excerpt is questioned.

On 18 September 1917 Captain Sheppard was “Transferred to House Establishment of R.F.C. at Shorncliffe”. However; a year later, he ceases to be with the R.F.C. as of 19 October 1918, relinquishes his Commission with the now-named RAF “on account of ill-health contracted on active service.” On the same date he was “S.O.S. Overseas Military Force of Canada in the British Isles on transfer to CEF in Canada. Retained in Canada.” Final paperwork had Captain Sheppard demobilized in Vancouver on 21 January 1919.

After discharge, Edmond Sheppard was admitted to the “Tranquille Sanitarium” for tuberculosis<sup>9</sup> of the lungs in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. Edmond Sheppard died of tuberculosis on 17 October 1921 at the age of 31 in the Balfour Sanitorium at Kamloops.

<sup>9</sup> Unlike the returning amputee veterans, the tuberculous veterans were denied pension and health benefits.

# Captain William Martin MC

School Master – Winnipeg - 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of Company  
36 years old, married with 2 children

**Lieutenant William Martin**, a tall and imposing School Master from Winnipeg. He Attested in Winnipeg on 9 May 1916 as a Lieutenant but later promoted to Captain at Camp Hughes on 20 October 1916 and shortly before the 196th Battalion entrained for Halifax and transit to England. He was 36-years-old, married and with two children. There were a number of last-minute promotions within the 196th Battalion during the last stages of training – likely related to both final medical exams and performance.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

On 17 November 1916, and less than a week after arriving in England, Captain Martin was appointed to be 2nd in Command of “C” Company. Nevertheless, with the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, Lieutenant Martin was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay after the disbandment of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

As part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion, Captain Martin “*Qualified at Canadian School of Musketry – Shorncliffe First Class*” on 26 January 1917. This was followed by training where he “*Qualified 1<sup>st</sup> Class Canadian Trench Warfare-Cromborough*” on 24 March 1917. A number of officers were introduced to the Western Front prior to selecting postings. Captain Martin “*Proceeded Overseas on Conducting duty*” from 3 April until 17 April 1917. Upon return, and while still awaiting a posting, he was the Adjutant to Lt.-Colonel MacKay in the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion from 26 June to 15 October 1917.

Prior to discharge from the 19<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion, Captain Martin reverts in rank back to Lieutenant on 3 October with the intention of going overseas with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles. Lieutenant William Martin leaves for the Front on 6 November and was Taken-on-Strength in the field on 8 November 1917 and during the very final stages of the Battle of Passchendaele. However; the war diary for the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles has the following notation for 23 November 1917;

LIGNY Nov 23  
LES AIRE

*“Battalion was inspected by Colonel ANDROS at 8.30 A.M. after which Company engaged in physical training drill etc. Afternoon – PAY PARADE. Christmas pay being given on this date. LT. MARTIN was taken on strength of Battalion.*

During the Last One Hundred Days phase of the war, Lieutenant Martin was “*To be Battalion Lewis Gun Officer*” as of 2 September 1918. Lieutenant Martin was also awarded Military Cross (*London Gazette No. 31219*). Based on action details in the following war diary excerpts, the most likely action was on 29 September 1918 along the BAPUAME-CAMBRAI and ARRAS-CAMBRAI ROADS – although there was an undetailed action on 20 September 1918 as well. (Notable excerpts underlined)

0.34.a.8.2 20th Sept.

*Battalion in Reserve. Casualties: 7 O.R.s wounded. In accordance with 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade instructions the Battalion will move my march route and by train from VIS-EN-ARTOIS area to LATTRE ST QUENTIN. Battalion moved off at 1.30 pm and marched to CROISILLES, from there by train to WANGQUENTIN, then by march route to*

LATTRE ST. QUETIN arriving at 11.45 pm. Officers taking part in the recent operations are as follows; Lt. Col B. Laws, D.S.O, Major G.H. Bradbrooke, M.C., Capt. J. Wotherspoon. Capt. Clark M.C. Capt. D.D. McLaws. Capt. Heavestone, Capt. Petherick, Lieut. J. Paterson. Lieut. P.H. Gayner. Lieut. W. Martin. Lieut. T.C. Wilson. Lieut. J.W. North. Lieut. M. McRae. Lieut. C.G. Sessions. Lieut. E. Dudley. Lieut. E.K. Hallsmith. Lieut. E.A. Young. Lieut. T.C. Maharg. Lieut. C.W. Wright. Lieut. J. Mortimer, Lieut. S.G. Churchward. Lieut. T.S. Chadwick. Lieut. W.H. Clarke. Lieut. G.C. Davidson. Lieut. S.G. Boyles, Lieut. Lieut. H.Q. Beynon. Lieut. J.A. Bethune. Lieut. W.M. Forsythe. Lieut. H. Wright. Lieut. A.E. Bond. Lieut. M.H. Robinson.

E.6c.8.d 29 Sept.

The Battalion made an attack this morning at 8 a.m., 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade on our right, 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion on our left. Boundaries were as follows: LEFT. SUNKEN ROAD from A.2.a.1.5 – A.2.d.9.7 – A.3.d.3.6 thence to CANAL A.4.c.4.4. RIGHT. ARRAS-CAMBRI ROAD to junction at A.9.a.25.25 thence BRIDGEHEAD at A.9.d.2.5. Disposition: - A Company Right front. C Company Left front. B Company Right Support. D. Company Left Support. Battalion H.Q. Sunken Road A.1.b.2.6. Objectives: - 1st, Bridgehead over CANAL l'ESCAULT. and press on and exploit as far as BROWN LINE from S.24.d.5.6 to B.6.d.4.1. The attack was supported by rolling artillery barrage. Preparatory to the attack Battalion moved from Trench in E.6.c.1.d to A.1.c.1.d. The Battalion advanced but was forced to withdraw owing to our artillery firing short. Machine gun posts still existed in the town of ST. OLLE. In the church and main St. East of church, these positions were shelled by our artillery. At 2.00 p.m. LIEUT. MARTIN with 21 O.R.s and 2 Lewis Guns proceeded from Brigade H.Q. to A.7.b.70.65 and worked north along street to ARRAS-CAMBRAI ROADL then down this road towards CAMBRAI and established post at junction of ARRAS-CAMBRAI and BAPAUME-CAMBRAI Roads. A. B & C Companies advanced from Sunken Road A.1.d.20.70 to a.1.b.50.90 to BRICKWORKS A.2.c. patrols from B Company then worked down Sunken Road from Brick Works to ARRAS-CAMBRAI Road then EAST along ARRAS-CAMBRAI ROAD to A.9.a.05.45 thence along road to railway A.3.d.40.60. Our disposition at night was as follows; Right Flank – LIEUT. MARTIN holding junction of BAPUAME-CAMBRAI and ARRAS-CAMBRAI ROADS, with standing patrol 50 yards in front of junction.”

As the Canadian artillery was firing short, the initial attack on 29 September 1918 had faltered and it may have been the actions of Lieutenant Martin and his Lewis Gun Section which provided the necessary interdiction fire to suppress the problematic German machine gun emplacements. Lieutenant William Martin's combat experiences conclude just before the Armistice and the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion notation for 23 November below mentions this transfer to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division H.Q.

23 November

Battalion at rest in Mons. Battalion fell in at 0830 hrs, full marching order. A Practice March past was held + remainder of the morning was devoted to Bayonet Fighting & Physical Training and Smartening up Drill. The Headquarters Lewis Gun Section was broken up + the men returned to their Companies. 5 O.R.s were admitted to Hospital + 10 O.R. returned. LIEUT. W. MARTIN proceeded to 3rd Canadian Division H.Q. for duty as Education Officer.

After the Armistice, Lieutenant Martin was Seconded as executive officer (3rd Division) Khaki University of Canada on 26 November and on 1 December 1919 “To be acting Captain and to be seconded for duty with Khaki University of Canada to fill establishment”. On 13 February 1919 he was Struck-off-Strength on transfer to Canadian Records List and proceeded to England and relinquished his acting rank of Captain all on 15 February 1919. His demobilization medical exam notes he was treated for Hammer Toe. Lieutenant Martin MC was “Struck-off-Strength Overseas Military Force of Canada on transfer to Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada” and “Embarked for Canada” all on 12 April 1919. Demobilized from the 3rd Canadian Division H.Q. in Winnipeg occurred on 25 April 1919.

Mr. Martin returned to teaching at Kelvin High School in Winnipeg until 1927, when appointed principal at Cecil Rhodes School. He retired in 1945 owing to poor health, moved to Victoria, British Columbia and died in Victoria on 10 November 1948 at the age of 67. Fifty-seven students from the then new Kelvin High School were killed in the Great War including 5 students in the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles with Lieutenant Martin MC – their high school teacher.

## Captain Cecil Scott Burgess

(Reg. 100397)

Professor of Architecture – Quartermaster – University of Alberta

46 years old, single

**Captain Cecil Scott Burgess** was a 45-year-old, single, Scottish-descent, Bombay-born architect brought on as a superintendent architect for a number of new University of Alberta buildings. In 1913 he was made professor of architecture at the University of Alberta. In addition, he supervised and later designed several university buildings in Edmonton. He first Attested on 30 July 1915 in Edmonton, Alberta with the 66th Battalion as a Quarter Master Sergeant Major and was given Regimental No. 100397. He was discharged to take a Commission with the 196th Western Universities Battalion, C-Company on 18 February 1916 while at the University of Alberta. His elderly parents were living Edinburgh, Scotland at this time.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, Captain Burgess was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. It is not clear if he retained any Quarter-Master duties. Captain Burgess was then absorbed into the 15th Reserve Battalion on 14 October 1916 when the 19th Reserve Battalion folded.

The year ends with him being Taken-on-Strength by the Saskatchewan Reserve Depot at Bramshott on 8 December 1917 for “*temporary work on education*” as of 18 December 1917. This temporary work (type unknown) extends until 6 February 1919 when Captain Burgess was attached to Khaki University of Canada and then on to the 2nd Canadian Convalescent Depot as of 26 May 1919. Captain Burgess never leaves the Canadian depot area on the English Channel.

On 17 June 1919, and as part of the process of demobilization, ear nose and throat specialists at Camp 29, Ripon, England diagnose “*chronic catarrhal otitis media*”, an extreme infection occurring in the middle ear. Beside ongoing ear infections, Captain Burgess had become largely deaf in his left ear. Captain Burgess sailed for Canada on 18 July 1919 aboard the *H.M.T Winifredian* and was discharged from service on 3 August 1919 in Ottawa.

Professor Burgess returned to the University of Alberta and remained a professor until his academic retirement in 1940. Afterwards Burgess undertook several building commissions and tended to specialize on hospitals. He lectured on town planning, architecture and history served as president of the Alberta Association of Architects and later vice-president of the Edmonton Town Planning Commission. Mr. Cecil S. Burgess died in Edmonton on 12 Nov 1971 at the age of 101.

# Captain Thomas Willoughby Walker

Medical Doctor – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - Medical Officer

Married, 39-years old, 11-year-old daughter

**Captain Thomas Willoughby Walker** was a 39-year-old married, medical doctor from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Prior experience in the Canadian Army Medical Corps was a definite asset for the newly formed Battalion. He was a tall, lanky officer at 6 feet in height and 160 pounds. He Attested at Camp Hughes on 12 June 1916 and later signed his own Officer's medical later on 19 September. Whereas his medical degree was from the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine (1903), the Officer Commanding the 196th Western Universities Battalion was a 1902 McGill Medical School graduate coupled with post-grad work in London, Edinburgh & Liverpool. The two doctors may have had evening discussions at Camp Hughes in 1916.

After overseeing medical care of the Battalion while training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, Dr. Walker and the 196th Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay (and medical doctor) who transferred command from the 196th Battalion.

Whereas, most members of the absorbed 196th Battalion were retained in the 19th Reserve Battalion for weeks or months, Captain Walker was first posted to the Duchess of Connaught Red Cross Hospital in England on 22 March 1916. This was followed by a transfer to No. 15 Canadian General Hospital in England on 24 September 1916 – here he was working with Professor John Meakins and Sir William Osler doing research and later in 1917 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

With the high Allied casualties of the German Ludendorff Offensive, Captain Walker was first transferred to the Canadian Army Medical Depot on 24 March 1918 until forwarded to the No. 4 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in France for more emergency medical treatment of the wounded as of 6 April 1918, especially diseases and injuries to the chest.

It is possible Captain Walker was with the No. 4 Casualty Clearing Station until his first Leave to England was granted on 9 December 1918. He was Struck-off-Strength on 24 December 1918 and transferred back to Canada beginning on 12 January with his discharge being in Regina, Saskatchewan on 6 February 1919.

After the war, Dr. Walker returned to Saskatchewan and specialized in internal medicine. In 1930, and perhaps owing to both the Depression and new opportunities on the West Coast, Dr. Walker moved to Victoria, British Columbia. He was selected Superintendent of the Royal Jubilee Hospital in 1933 and passed away on 26 April 1963 in Victoria, British Columbia at the age of 86.



## Captain John Malcolm MacEachran

Professor Philosophy and Psychology – University of Alberta - Paymaster  
Single, 38 years old

**Captain John Malcolm MacEachran** was a 38-year-old, single professor of Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Alberta from 1909 until 1945. He Attested in Edmonton on 15 April 1916 and was taken on as the Paymaster for the 196th Western Universities Battalion. The University of Alberta was associated with C-Company within the Battalion.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) and re-appointed Paymaster for the 15th Reserve on 20 January 1917 as part of the Canadian Army Pay Corps – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Later, on 23 October 1917 he was transferred to the “*Young Soldiers Battalion*” again as Paymaster and under the command of Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay, his original Officer Commanding of the 196th Western Universities Battalion organized at Camp Hughes. The Young Soldiers’ Battalion was composed of underage volunteers, some of whom had already served on the front. Another transfer as Paymaster saw Captain MacEachran attached to the 13th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery on 3 February 1918. Again, on 22 April 1919 he ceased to be attached as Paymaster to the 13th Brigade on proceeding to England for duty with the Paymaster General at the General Depot.

His duties as a Paymaster conclude on 26 May 1918 when Captain MacEachran proceeded to the Khaki University of Canada under the 2nd Canadian Command Depot at Ripon. Finally, on 21 July 1919, Captain MacEachran was Struck-off-Strength on transfer to the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada and sails on the *SS Columbia* from Glasgow, Scotland. His military service ends in Ottawa on 30 September 1919 when he was demobilized.

After service in the Great War, Professor MacEachran was head of the Department of Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Alberta. As part of his involvement with the Alberta community he was a member of the government Eugenics Board from 1929 to 1965. Dr. MacEachran retired in 1945 and passed away in 1971.

## Captain Edmond Henry Oliver

Presbyterian Theological College, President – University of Saskatchewan - Chaplain  
34-years old, married, one 3-year-old boy

**Captain Edmond Henry Oliver**, was the younger brother of Captain John Payson Oliver, also in the 196th Battalion and, himself, a professor of engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. E. H. Oliver, at the age of 34 years, had just been appointed by the Presbyterian General Assembly of Canada in 1913 to be the first president of Presbyterian Theological College (*later St. Andrews College*). Captain Oliver had modest previous military training in the Canadian Officer's Training Cadet program. Academic courses at the Presbyterian Theological College had just begun 1914 when Captain E. H. Oliver Attested with "*B-Company*" of the 196th Western Universities Battalion in Saskatoon. He would remain with St. Andrew's College until 1935. He was Taken-on-Strength at Camp Hughes on 30 May 1916 as the Battalion Chaplain.



After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, like all other members of the officer corps, Oliver was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. On 22 May 1917 Captain Oliver was Struck-off-Strength from the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion and transferred to the Director of Chaplain Services in London and then proceeded overseas from London on 4 September 1917 for duty. His first posting was No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) on 5 September 1917 which was then located at Boulogne, France with 1,090 beds. He remained at this hospital until 30 November 1917 when he was transferred to Canadian Corps Headquarters and on to Canadian General Base Depot back at Shorncliffe, England on 10 December 1917.

The New Year saw Captain Oliver again attached overseas for duty with the 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters as "*Officer of Education*" as of 10 March 1918 followed by another transfer to No. 8 Canadian Field Ambulance on 4 April 1918 and during a period when casualties were still filtering into hospitals from the Ludendorff Offensive. Captain Oliver was "*Mentioned in Dispatches*" on 7 April 1918 while in the field. This posting ended 5 weeks later on 15 May 1918 with a further transfer back to England to the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp and then onto Shorncliffe for temporary duty on 2 July 1918. After the Armistice, the London Gazette stated Captain Oliver was granted the title of "*Honorary Lt.-Colonel while employed with the Khaki University*" – he being appointed Assistant Director.

Leaving England on 31 May 1919 onboard the *H.M.T. Adriatic*, he arrived in Halifax on 7 June 1919 and was Struck-off-Strength on 21 June 1919. Rev. Dr. Oliver was the Principal of St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, at the time of his sudden passing on July 11, 1935 at the age of 53. He had previously been a moderator of the General Council of the United Church.

# Lieutenant Stuart James Schofield

(Reg. No. 911884)

Geologist - Geological Survey of Canada, University of British Columbia – Assistant Adjutant

**Lieutenant Stuart James Schofield** had a rather short career with the Canadian Corps during the Great War. He Attested as a Professor of Geology at the University of British Columbia and associated with the Geological Survey of Canada. Lieutenant Schofield formed part of “*D-Company*” in the 196th Western Universities Battalion. His initial rank was as 32-year-old married Private 911884 at Camp Hughes east of Brandon, Manitoba. He promoted to Corporal on 9 August 1916 and Sergeant on 1 September 1916. A commission as a Lieutenant was offered on 23 August 1916 – the Commission as an officer preceded his promotion to Sergeant. His academic career included bachelor and master’s degrees in Canada followed by a PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1912 and then a position at the University of British Columbia.

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With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. First, he “*Qualified 1st Class – course of Instruction Canadian Infantry Weapons School*” on 5 March 1917, he then relinquished his position as Assistance Adjutant to the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion on 11 March 1917.

Posted to the Seaford Reserve Depot (SRD) from the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion, on 10 October 1917 it stated “*he will be shown on leave pending return to Canada for duty being a civil servant in receipt of civil pay as well as military pay*”. Lieutenant Schofield was Struck-off-Strength out of transit to Canada for disposal by Adjutant General Ottawa as of 18 October 1917.

After the war he was Professor of Structural Geography at the University of British Columbia in 1920. Ill health forced Schofield to retire in 1940 and he died in Vancouver in 1947 at the age of 63. Lieutenant Schofield was an associate of Major Reginald Walter Brock, 2nd in Command of the 196th Western Universities Battalion as both were geologists.

## Lieutenant Walter Maxwell Wright Fife

Civil Engineer - University of Alberta - Platoon Commander and Assistance Musketry Officer  
Single, 25-years-old

**Lieutenant Walter Maxwell Wright Fife** was a 25-year-old civil engineer associated with the University of Alberta; and therefore, part of the “*C-Company*” of the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion. He had some basic military training as Canadian Officer Training Cadet. Originally born in Peterboro, Ontario he was living with his father in Edmonton at the time of his Attestment on 15 February 1916. His medical exam notes he was slightly near-sighted and this may have affected his type of postings overseas.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

Lieutenant Fife “*qualified as 1<sup>st</sup> Class Instructor both in musketry and in the mechanisms of the Lewis M.G. at the Eastern Command School*” at Hythe on 23 December 1916. As fate would have it, this was likely the last time he fired any weapons. With the disbanding of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

On 14 September 1917 Lieutenant Fife proceeded overseas with the Canadian Labour Corps Battalion before being Taken-on-Strength by the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Labour Battalion the same day – the Canadian Corps making use of his civil engineering background. He remained with this unit until 15 September 1918 when he was transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Works Company.

His war ends with the Armistice and a final posting to the Khaki University of Canada on 17 March 1919. Lieutenant Fife ceased to be attached to the Khaki University on 26 May 1919, was Struck-off-Strength and sailed for Canada on 18 July 1919 aboard the *H.M.T.S. Winifredian*. Upon returning to Canada, the records are sparse. It is suggested he remained single and may have moved to the Boston, Massachusetts area and passed away on 22 April 1955 at the age of 64.

## ‡ Lieutenant Clark Reid Hopper MC

(Reg. No. 910011)

Lecturer of English Economics - University of Manitoba - Platoon Commander  
Single, 25-years-old

**Private Clark Reid Hopper** (Reg. No. 910011) was a single, 25-year-old lecturer of English Economics (MA) at the Manitoba Agricultural College in Winnipeg when he first Attested on 24 February 1916 in St. Vital, just a few miles south of the present-day University of Manitoba on the Red River. His colleague at the College, Lieutenant Cunningham, and a professor of chemistry, was his witness. On 25 March 1916 he was promoted to Sergeant while stationed in Winnipeg with A-Company of the 196th Western Universities Battalion. However, he re-Attested on 5 May 1916 as both a Lieutenant and a married man with his wife living in Winnipeg and later moving back to her hometown of Pilot Mound. He was formally Taken-on-Strength at Camp Hughes on 19 September 1916 after another medical examine by Captain Walker but mostly likely trained there all summer. The record states he had some Canadian Officer Cadet Training prior to enlistment and this was rare at the time.



After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, unlike all other members of the officer corps of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion, it appears he was not absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – but was “*Taken-on-Strength C.M.G.D.*” [Canadian Machine Gun Depot] at Crowborough, England on 19 December 1916. Lieutenant Hopper was then transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Pool on 17 May 1917 and then on to France on 21 May 1917. After final training, and likely as a reinforcement officer, he was Taken-on-Strength with the 11th Canadian Machine Gun Company in the field on 7 July 1917 and just as it came out of the Line. It had taken 16 months to reach the Front, even with this expedited transfer to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

On 18 October 1917, Lieutenant Hopper “*was awarded the above (MC) for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although a new arrival in the line, he commanded three sections of twelve guns with most conspicuous fearlessness and coolness under intense shell fire, and when two guns were blown up he immediately moved forward and continued firing. His courage and dash set a splendid example to all those under his command.*” London Gazette No. 30561

On 29 October 1917 Lieutenant Hopper was admitted to No. 20 General Hospital at Camiers with “*PUO*” (*Pyrexia [i.e. fever] of Unknown Origin*) or Trench Fever and then transferred to No. 8 Michelham Convalesce Home at Cap Martin, Dieppe on 11 November before being discharged on 30 November 1917. He rejoined the Company on 5 December 1917. He was one of two officers from the 196th to suffer from Trench Fever.

In March 1918, the 11th Machine Gun Company was folded into the 4th Battalion Machine Gun Corps with his named being recorded on the Nominal Roll as of 12 April 1918. On 24 August 1918, Lieutenant Hopper was promoted to Acting Captain; most likely owing to the wounding of another Captain in the unit.

During the Last One Hundred Days A/Captain Hopper received a severe Gun Shot Wound (GSW-Severe) to the face on 1 October 1918. The bullet, perhaps from a sniper, created two wounds – entering in front of the right ear and exiting the left side of the nose. The wound will affect his jaw and speaking for the remainder of

his life. Furthermore, the wound was very close to being fatal. On 2 October 1918, A/Captain Hopper was transferred to No. 14 General Hospital at Wimereux, France and then to No. 3 London General Hospital on 3 October via hospital ship *HS Cambria*. He spent 64 days in recovery and was discharged on 6 December 1918 and after the Armistice. He appeared before a Medical Board in the London Area on 30 November 1918 in order to assess his condition and was declared "Unfit for General Service for 3 months".

Leaving England on 15 December 1918, Acting Captain Hopper MC was transported on the *SS Grampian* and arrived in Canada on Christmas Eve (24 December 1918) and appeared before a Canadian Medical Board in Winnipeg on 17 January 1919. Despite his face wound, he was declared A-1 and with no permanent war injuries.

Acting Captain C. R. Hopper MC was demobilized in Ottawa on 16 March 1919 less his good friend and colleague at the Manitoba Agricultural College, Lieutenant Cunningham who was Killed in Action. After the Great War, Captain Hopper remained with the 10th Brigade, Canadian Machine Gun Corps as of 22 March 1921 and remained in this capacity in Winnipeg, Manitoba until 15 December 1936.

He was a member of the teaching staff of the Manitoba Agricultural College (later the University of Manitoba), serving over a 43-year period as Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor in the English Department until retirement in 1955. He died at Winnipeg on 2 July 1972 at the age of 82 and was buried in the Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens.

# Lieutenant Frederick James Freer

Teacher – Brandon College, Manitoba / University of Saskatchewan - Platoon Commander

**Lieutenant Frederick James Freer**, was born in Brandon, Manitoba; and was a 24-year-old, single teacher from Brandon College in Brandon but attending the University of Saskatchewan. Academically gifted, student Freer was awarded the Governor General's Medal in May 1913 and again in May 1915. He also played on the U of Saskatchewan Varsity Football team. Later he attested with the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion in Saskatoon on 27 April 1916. As such, he becomes part of B-Company of the Battalion and trains with the Battalion at Camp Hughes east of Brandon over the summer and early Fall of 1916.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Along with some other officers, he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Rifles in Seaford, England on 6 March 1917. He was quickly transferred to France and joins the 1<sup>st</sup> CMR in the field on 22 March 1917. However; earlier in December 1916 he was treated for a mild case of gonorrhea with treatment lasting about a month.

Sickened with Trench Fever or “PUO” (*Pyrexia [i.e. fever] of Unknown Origin*) on 1 August 1917, he was first admitted to No. 10 Canadian Field Ambulance in France and later transferred to No. 20 General Hospital in Brighton, England on 16 August 1917. After recovery, he was reposted first to the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion on 10 October but was folded into the 15<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion when it absorbed the 19<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion on 14 October 1917.

Lieutenant Freer was then re-posted to the Canadian Anti-Gas School at Seaford on 1 December 1917 for 20 days of training. Finally, on 9 February 1918, Lieutenant Freer was seconded to the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Brigade but was returned to the London area on 5 April 1918 as an Anti Gas Officer. This posting ends with admittance to No. 12 General Hospital at Bramshott on 28 May 1918 and then to No. 13 Canadian General Hospital at Hastings for 133 days of treatment with a subsequent venereal infection. As a result, he was transferred to the 15<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion before he was detached to the Royal Air Force on 23 October 1918.

As part of demobilization medical examinations, he was declared disease free on 6 January 1919. On 31 May 1919, Lieutenant Freer was demobilized at Regina, Saskatchewan. Records after his return after the Great War are sparse. It is believed he passed away on 6 February 1941 at the age of 48. What became of his university career remains unknown.

## ‡ Lieutenant Wesley John McKenzie

Reg. 911251 - Sergeant

Arts Student - University of Alberta - Platoon Commander  
Single, 28-year-old, First Nation officer

Sergeant and later **Lieutenant Wesley John McKenzie** Attested in Edmonton on Valentines Day in 1916 as part of C-Company of the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion from the University of Alberta. He was a mature, single, 28-year-old Arts student with a connection to the Oneida First Nation in Ontario – he assigned \$50 monthly (\$900 in present value) to his one brother who was living on the Oneida First Nation. His previous occupation was a farmer. Lieutenant Fyfe, of the 196th Battalion was his witness; and Lieutenant McKenzie had previous militia experience with both 27th Regiment in Chatham, Ontario and Canadian Officer Training Cadet (COTC) at the University of Alberta. It appears he was commissioned a Lieutenant on or about 22 April 1916 and prior to attending Camp Hughes east of Brandon, Manitoba.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) (also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay). and then transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles (1<sup>st</sup> CMR) at Seaford on 6 March 1917 and then forwarded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Entrenching Battalion on 25 March 1917 and then onto the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Trenching School on 12 June 1917 and followed by the Canadian Corps Gas School on 8 September 1917. On 10 July 1917 he was wounded with a Gun Shot Wound (slight) to the back-shoulder and was admitted to No. 20 General Hospital in Camiers, France and rejoins the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles on 15 September 1917.

He survives the Great War but on 17 February 1919 during his demobilization medical exam it was discovered he has *hypermetropia divergent strabismus amblyopia* in the right eye – basically blind. Had the war continued, Lieutenant McKenzie was only fit for garrison duty and not general service. Lieutenant McKenzie sailed for Canada on 12 March 1919 and was demobilized in Edmonton on 29 March 1919.



## † Lieutenant Robert Alexander Cunningham

Professor of Chemistry - Manitoba Agricultural College (Winnipeg) - Platoon Commander  
Married, 28-years old

**Lieutenant Robert Alexander Cunningham** was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1888 and was a 28-year-old married professor of chemistry at the Manitoba Agricultural College in Winnipeg when he Attested with A-Company of the 196th Western Universities Battalion on 1 March 1916. He had 4 previous years of Officer Cadet Training at Edinburgh University. His young wife relocated to Edinburgh, Scotland in November 1916 to live with his parents.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the SS Southland, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.



With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) on 1 January 1917 – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. In the interim, Lieutenant Cunningham completed his qualification in musketry at the Hythe Range plus use the Lewis Gun in March 1917. This was followed by an Anti-Gas School at Aldershot in June 1917. He was then transferred to the 15th Canadian Reserve Battalion on 14 October 1917. Finally, on 23 August 1918 he was Taken-on-Strength with the 46th CEF Battalion and joins them in the Field on 5 September 1918.

After only fifty-two days at the Front, and near the end of the Great War, Lieutenant Cunningham was seriously wounded and reported Killed-in-Action on 27 October 1918 – just two weeks prior to the Armistice.

## Lieutenant John Harold Kerr

Student, Vancouver - Signalling Officer and Platoon Commander

**Lieutenant John Harold Kerr** was born in Wroxeter, Ontario but was a 21-year-old student and living with his parents in Vancouver, British Columbia at the time of his 14 April 1916 Attestation with the 196th Western Universities Battalion – most like with D-Company associated with the University of British Columbia. He had some militia experience with the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada based in Vancouver.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) (also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay) before being transferred to the Canadian Engineering Training Division (CETD) at Crowborough on 5 July 1917. He was slightly short-sighted and this may have affected his transfer.

Finally, on 31 January 1918 Lieutenant Kerr proceeds to France to join the 2nd Canadian Division Signal Company – Canadian Engineers. In the latter part 1918 Influenza affects him. On 29 October 1918 he was admitted to No. 14 Canadian Field Ambulance Hospital and transferred to the No. 4 Canadian Field Ambulance the same day. On 30 October he transferred to No. 42 Casualty Clearing Station with pneumonia and then the Corps Rest Station before being admitted to No. 8 Red Cross Hospital in Boulogne, France on 8 November 1918 and remained in hospital until 29 December 1918. He does not return to England until 17 April 1919.

Sailing from Southampton on 6 June 1919 via the *SS Aquitania*, Lieutenant Kerr arrived in Halifax on 14 June 1919 and was demobilized in Ottawa on 29 June 1919.

## Lieutenant Carlton George Lee

Teacher - University of Manitoba - Platoon Commander  
Single, 24-year old

**Lieutenant Carlton George Lee** was a single, 24-year-old teacher at the University of Manitoba and was most likely enlisted in A-Company of the 196th Western Universities Battalion in Winnipeg and trained at Camp Hughes

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

However; on 11 March 1917, Lieutenant Lee transfers to the Royal Naval Air Service. Being part of an Imperial force, all his Canadian records end with this transfer; nevertheless, a cryptic notation indicates he survived the Great War.

# † Lieutenant William Carey McKee

Law student and teacher - Platoon Commander

Single, 24-years-old

**Lieutenant William Carey McKee** (911255 - Sergeant) was a 24-year-old Law student and teacher; his father being one of the founders at Brandon College in Brandon. More than 200 Brandon College students served in the First World War and the college provided a platoon to the Western Universities Battalion. He first Attests in Edmonton in 21 February 1916 and later transfers to the Calgary School of Infantry on 3 March 1916 before again transferring to 196th Battalion at Camp Hughes. On 14 May 1916, at Camp Hughes he was nominated Lieutenant in the 2nd Company.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) (also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay) and then drafted into the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles. On 9 March 1917 Lieutenant McKee develops appendicitis and on 28 April was hospitalized first at No. 14 General Hospital at Boulogne, France and then transferred to 2nd West General Hospital in Manchester on 29 April 1917. The surgery was performed on 8 May with good results. A month later Lieutenant McKee returns to the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles on 6 June 1917. On 26 August 1918 he was Killed in Action during the Battle of the Scarpe/ Hill 70 in front of Lens, France.

*26 August 1917*

*Battalion in Support. In accordance with Instructions received from 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade, the [Battalion] moved forward to the following positions, preparatory to an attack on enemy positions, "A" Company-Pioneer Trench from Pelves Road to Tube Alley. "B" Company H.32.c.0.5 to H32.a.8.8. "C" Company H.31.d.8.8 to H32.a.3.7. "D" Company H.26.d.35.80 to H32.a.85.85. with Battalion H.Q. H26.a.10.20. Under orders from 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade the Battalion at 3.00 am this morning attacked the enemy positions (a) Red Line from Scarpe River H.30.b.5.8 to N.6.b.1.5 and (b) Monchy Village. The 2nd, 4th and 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles attacked at 5.25 am at the Green Line which was their objective. Our disposition for this attack was as follows.*

*28 August 1917*

*Our men pressed on vigorously, advancing rapidly and inflicting severe casualties on the enemy besides capturing large number of prisoners and war material. By 7.00 am. our final objectives had been reached and our advance continued until 8.00 am. when we took up positions beyond our given objectives; extending from the Scarpe River on the left to a line encircling, and running 200 yards from the Eastern edge of the village of Monchy on the Right with Battalion Headquarters in Curb Switch. These positions were held and consolidated and about 11.00 am. units of the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade passed through our line and pressed on the advance. For nearly two hours the enemy shelled us with heavy Trench mortars after which he used 5.9's and 4.1's inflicting some casualties. The remainder of the day our troops remained in these positions and apart from promiscuous shelling nothing of consequence happened and a well earned rest was obtained.*

*Battle Casualties;*

*Officers Killed: Lieut. R. Shannon, Lieut. L.W. Smith, Lieut. J. Mott, Lieut. W.C. McKee, Lieut. A.R. MacMillan, Lieut. J. Sydie MC.*

*Officers Wounded: Lieut. C.H. Gunn, Lieut. J.G.B. Coyne, Lieut. L.D. Lawson, Lieut. M MacRae. (Remaining at duty).*

*Other Ranks: 23 Killed. 116 Wounded. 1 Missing.*

## Lieutenant Leslie Hay Kennedy

(Reg. 911791)

Student at Law, Vancouver - Platoon Commander  
Single, 21-year-old

**Lieutenant Leslie Hay Kennedy** was a 21-year-old Student at Law when he enlisted in D-Company of the 196th Western Universities Battalion in Vancouver on 3 April 1916 as Private Kennedy (Reg. 911791). Born in Owen Sound, Ontario, Private Kennedy had some militia experience with the 72th Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in Vancouver. He passed his medical with Captain Walker at Camp Hughes on 5 July 1916. First a sergeant, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant on 6 September 1916 at Camp Hughes.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. On 14 February 1917 Lieutenant Kennedy was detached to the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). Later renamed the Royal Air Force (RAF) with the merging of the Royal Flying Corps with the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), Lieutenant Kennedy served as a Flying Officer Observer.

He was granted sick leave on 11 March 1918 and this leave was extended until 11 June 1918. As of 1 January 1918, Lieutenant Kennedy was transferred back to Canada and Taken-on-Strength with J-Unit Military Hospital Commission Command based in Victoria, British Columbia as of 2 February 1918. He relinquished his commission on account of ill health on 31 December 1918 and ceased to be attached for duty with the RAF on 6 March 1919.

He immigrated to New York City, New York, United States in 1946 for a time. He died on 15 February 1981, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, at the age of 84, and was buried in Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

## ‡ Lieutenant Joseph Tweed Shaw MC (Reg. 911413)

Lawyer and Barrister, C-Company Edmonton - Platoon Commander

Married, 33-year old with 19-month-old son

**Lieutenant Joseph Tweed Shaw** (Reg. 911413) was a 33-year-old lawyer from a private law practice in Calgary and first enlisted as a corporal (19 April 1916) and later quickly promoted to sergeant (18 September 1916) with the 103th Calgary Rifles<sup>10</sup> but was discharged to take a commission with the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Enlisting in first a non-permanent militia and then transferring over to a Canadian Expeditionary Force was used by a couple other officers of the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion to slightly expedite matters. He was a tall red-haired man at over 6 feet tall, 160 pounds, slightly near-sighted and was married with a 19-month son.

At Camp Hughes east of Brandon, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the 196th Western Universities Battalion. Born in Port Arthur, Ontario in 1883, he was practicing law in Calgary and enlisted in the Western Universities Battalion's C-Company. He was he was formally Taken-on-Strength at Camp Hughes on 19 October 1916 with his medical exam completed by Captain Walker on 23 October, promoted to Lieutenant on 24 October 1916. However, he was likely training at Camp Hughes in early May 1916, having been discharged This all very near the end of their training period before leaving by train for Halifax.

After training at Camp Hughes in Manitoba in the summer of 1916, the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion embarked for Liverpool on 11 November 1916 after leaving Halifax on 1 November aboard the *SS Southland*, the 196th Battalion likely transported by a special troop train to the large troop training complex at Seaford on the English Channel coast. At Seaford, the 196th Battalion would begin the second stage of short-lived training as a unit; and with most of these recruitment battalions broken up and fed into Reserve Battalions and then parceled out as replacements for various battalions and units in England, France and the Western Front.

With the disbanding of the 196th Battalion on 31 December 1916 in Seaford, England, like all other members of the officer corps, he was first absorbed by the 19th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Saskatchewan) – this reserve Battalion also commanded by Lt.-Colonel Daniel Sayre MacKay who transferred command from the 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. During this period, he passes First Class in the School of Musketry on 27 January 1917 and was then Taken-on-Strength by the 46th Saskatchewan Battalion and proceeded to France as of 20 March 1917.

Shortly thereafter, he was admitted to No. 20 General Hospital, Camiers, France on 5 April 1917 with a Gun Shot Wound to the face shortly before the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The wound was described as slight and he was discharged to duty to Etaples on 6 April 1917 and later rejoins the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion after Vimy Ridge on 14 April 1917.

On 27 February 1918 Lieutenant Shaw was to be a Temporary Captain and this was noted in the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion war diary on 18 March 1918. In part, this was an attempt by the Battalion to offset the high loss of officers from the Battle of Passchendaele. Lieut. Shaw was promoted with another officer from the 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion, former Major R.J.G. Bateman.

*ALBERTA CAMP, 18 March 1918, 11 p.m.*

*The present strength of the Battalion to-day, including attaches is 47 Officers, 1,054 other ranks. While at HOUDAIN 95 other ranks reinforcements were received from England. 11 of these were retained and 84 sent to 4th Div. Wing C.C.R.C. exchange for which was received three days ago including many casualties rejoining. Battalion establishment is now increased to 46 Officers, 1,072 Other ranks from 32 officers, 983 other ranks.*

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<sup>10</sup> The 103rd Regiment (Calgary Rifles) was an infantry regiment of the Canadian Non-Permanent Active Militia, authorized at Calgary, Alberta, Canada, by General Order on 1 April 1910.

*The following promotions appeared to-day: -*

*Lieut. C.M. Ackland to be temporary Captain and absorbed 29/10/17*

*A/Capt. P.L. Barter to be temporary Captain 26/10/17*

*Lieut. E.M. Johnston to be A/Captain 20/12/17*

*Lieut. J. T. Shaw to be A/Captain 5/11/1917*

[Originally from 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion]

*Lieut. R.J.G. Bateman to be A/Captain 27/10/1917*

[Originally from 196<sup>th</sup> Western Universities Battalion]

*Lieut. M.J. Blair to be A/Captain 10/11/1917*

*Training was continued to-day two companies carrying out Bullet and Bayonet practice on the ranges and two companies Tactical Scheme under the C.O. Specialist classes were continued as laid down.*

Later Captain Shaw was awarded the Military Cross on 1 February 1919 and was Struck-off-Strength and sailed for Canada on 28 May 1919 via Liverpool on the *Empress of Britain* and disembarked at Quebec on 4 June 1919.

He later re-joined as a partner in the Calgary law firm *Short, Ross, Selwood, Shaw & Mayhoo*, was unofficial leader of the of the Liberal opposition in the Alberta Legislature, 1926-1931 and died in 1944 at the age of 59.