



Corporal James Baldwin (Regimental Number 6299, 2nd Battalion, Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers))* has no known last resting-place, his sacrifice thus commemorated on the stone of the Ypres (*Menin Gate*) Memorial, Panel 42.



**In 1920 the order of the name was reversed – Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's).*

James Baldwin apparently enlisted in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool. What his occupation had been up to that point seems not to be documented but, having been born in the area of Pouch Cove, St. John's East, he certainly must have crossed the Atlantic at some point, perhaps in the course of a previous occupation.

It was as Private James Baldwin of Princess Victoria's (*Royal Irish Fusiliers*) that he entered into active service in France on February 1, 1915. The Battalion was attached to the 82nd Brigade of the 27th Division which was then stationed in a northern area of the Western Front on the Franco Belgian frontier, to the south of the medieval city of Ypres.

In mid-March the 27th Division was involved in the action of Sint-Elooi (*St. Eloi* in French – but not to be confused with St. Eloi, in France, where there was also fighting) where some of the first subterranean mines of the war were detonated by the Germans. The British incurred some five hundred casualties here on March 14-15.



(Right: *German bunkers, today used as auxiliary farm buildings, in the area of Sint-Elooi – photograph from 2014*)

This action was followed by the *Second Battle of Ypres* which officially occurred lasted from April 22 to May 25. But it was not to be until May 8 that the 27th Division was involved, the Germans unleashing an artillery barrage on its front prior to an infantry attack on that day. In places the line was pushed back some two kilometres by the attackers: in other locations the Germans were held – unfortunately the relevant war diaries are as yet unavailable and detailed information is lacking.

One source, however, *does* record the Fusiliers as being in the area of Sanctuary Wood and the 27th Division in positions astride the Menin Road at the time. Apparently May 15 was a quiet day.

(continued)

The son of Edward Thomas Baldwin and Alice Baldwin of Pouch Cove, he was also oldest brother to William*, David, George, Mary-Louise, Fanny-Amelia and Selena-Hazel.

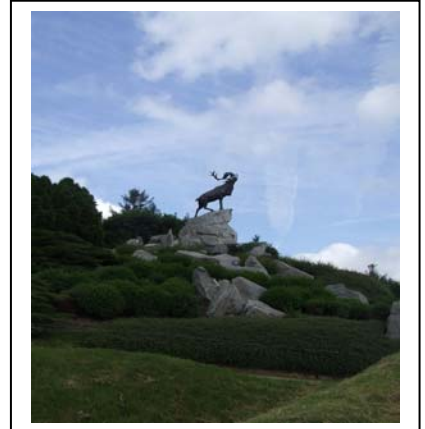
(Right: vestiges of Canadian trenches on private property in Sanctuary Wood – photograph from 2010)

**He is also documented as being brother to Uriah Baldwin (Private, Regimental Number 1846 of the Newfoundland Regiment) who was killed in action on October 9 at the Broembek in Belgium during Passchendaele. He has no known grave, his sacrifice honoured on the bronze below the Caribou at Beaumont-Hamel (right). Uriah Baldwin is recorded elsewhere as William.*

Corporal Baldwin is reported as having been *killed in action* on May 5, 1915, during *Second Ypres*.

He died at thirty-two years of age: date of birth, April 23, 1883.

(Right: *The sacrifice of Corporal James Baldwin is honoured on the Pouch Cove War Memorial in the District of St. John's East. – photograph from 2010*)



Corporal James Baldwin was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).

