



Lance Corporal Charles (*Charley*) Jackson, Number 877118 of the 85th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*), Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery: Grave reference III.H.15..

(Right: *The 85th Battalion emblem, worn as a head-dress cap badge, is from the Wikipedia web-site*)

(continued)



His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *blaster*, Charley Jackman appears to have left little behind him a propos his movement from the Dominion of Newfoundland to the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. By the time of his enlistment a resident of 228, Victoria Road in the industrial city of Sydney, Cape Breton, he may have been the Chas. Jackson registered on the passenger list of the SS *Bruce* when it crossed the Cabot Strait on April 11, 1909. The vessel was on its way from Port aux Basques to North Sydney and Chas.' Jackson's destination was Sydney where one may presume he was to seek work in his declared line of work as a labourer.

**But also see final page a propos his wife.*

His first pay records indicate that it was on March 6, 1916, that the Canadian Army began to remunerate the by-then Private Jackson for his services. On that same day he then underwent a medical examination – which found him fit...*for the Canadian Over Seas Expeditionary Force...* - and also attestation.

However, it was then to be a further six weeks, not until April 26, before the formalities of his enlistment were officially concluded: it was on that date that the commanding officer of the 185th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Parker Day declared – on paper – that...*Charles Jackson...having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.*

By this time, Private Jackson would have already spent the intervening weeks undergoing training in the town of Broughton*, only some twenty kilometres distant, to the south of Sydney.

**Broughton had been a 'company town', developed towards the end on the nineteenth century by the Cape Breton Coal, Iron & Railway Company. Apparently too much money had been spent on it as the company went bankrupt in 1907 and the town was soon abandoned. At the outset of the Great War it was taken over by the Canadian Army and, more particularly, by the 185th Battalion (Cape Breton Highlanders).*

This posting to Broughton was not to last longer than just over two months. By that time, the authorities had decided to create a *Nova Scotia Highland Brigade* to comprise the 185th, the 85th, the 193rd and the 219th Battalions. On May 23 of 1915 these four formations were assembled to train together at *Camp Aldershot*, Nova Scotia, where the *Brigade* then spent all summer before receiving its colours on September 28, two weeks before its departure for overseas service.

Apart from being a time of training, the period spent at Aldershot was also the occasion for some to write a will before leaving for overseas service in the United Kingdom. Private Jackson did so on September 3, in a document in which he left everything to his father. It was also about this time, on the first day of October, 1916, and also prior to departure, that he began to allocate a monthly fifteen dollars from his pay to his father.

At seven o'clock in the evening of October 11, 1916, the one-thousand thirty-eight officers and *other ranks* of the 185th Overseas Battalion embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic* in Halifax harbour. Earlier that day the 85th and the 188th Battalions had gone on board, to be followed on the morrow by the 219th and the 193rd.

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

On October 13th - at about eleven o'clock in the morning - it was the turn of the half-battalion of the 166th – five-hundred three *all ranks* - the final unit, to march up the gangways before *Olympic* cast her lines and sailed towards the open sea. For the trans-Atlantic passage she was carrying some six-thousand five-hundred military personnel.



The vessel arrived in the English west-coast port of Liverpool on October 18, some five days later, and the troops disembarked on the following day. The 185th Battalion was thereupon transported south-eastwards to *Witley Camp* in the county of Surrey.

The 185th Battalion (*Cape Breton Highlanders*) is documented as then having provided re-enforcements for Canadian forces on the Continent. This was to last until February of 1918 when the unit was absorbed into the newly-organized Canadian 17th (*Reserve*) Battalion.

The Cape Breton's Battalion's organizers had originally expected that it would be sent – with the other three units of the *Nova Scotia Highland Brigade* – into *active service* on the Continent, but this was not to be*.

**Before the end of the Great War, Canada was to have despatched overseas two-hundred fifty battalions – although it is true that a number of these units, particularly as the conflict progressed, were below full strength. At the outset, these Overseas Battalions all had presumptions of seeing active service in a theatre of war.*

However, as it transpired, only some fifty of these formations were ever to be sent across the English Channel to the Western Front. By far the majority remained in the United Kingdom to be used as re-enforcement pools and they were gradually absorbed, particularly after January of 1917, by units that had by then been designated as Canadian Reserve Battalions.

By the time of Private Jackson's arrival in England, the Canadian Corps had been involved in the *First Battle of the Somme* for two months during which time it had suffered terrible losses. It was to fill the depleted ranks of those battered units that three-quarters of newly-arrived *Nova Scotia Highland Brigade* was to be deployed.



(Right: *Dead of the Somme awaiting burial* – an unidentified photograph)

It was the 85th Battalion which was the exception to this rule as it *alone* of the *Highland Brigade* was despatched to France - in February of 1917. Serving with the 11th and then the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigades of the 4th Canadian Division, it was to distinguish itself at first at *Vimy Ridge* and then during the remainder of the conflict.

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Private Jackson was to spend but seven weeks less a day in the United Kingdom. On December 5 he was *struck off strength* by the 185th Battalion in England to be *taken on strength* on the morrow, December 6, in France by the 73rd Battalion (*Royal Highlanders of Canada*) which was already serving on the Continent.

On the night of December 5-6 he had made the crossing of the English Channel; through which ports Private Jackson travelled appears not to be recorded among his papers although many troops from Witley embarked in Folkestone and landed in Boulogne, some two hours' sailing-time distant*. Whichever the case, on December 6 he was next reported as having reported to the large Canadian Base Depot in the area of the French port-city of Le Havre on the estuary of the River Seine.



**Others passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton and Le Havre on the French side of the English Channel.*

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

On December 7 a re-enforcement draft was despatched from Le Havre to seek out the parent unit of the 73rd Battalion. Among the draft was Private Jackson whose papers document him as having reported *to duty* on the following day again. The 73rd Battalion War Diary records the occasion as being on December 9: *A draft of 150 other ranks received from 185th Highland Battalion from Nova Scotia. Men were all of good physique, intelligent and had a smart appearance...*

At the time the 73rd Battalion was billeted some eight kilometres to the south-west of the larger centre of Béthune, in the community of Ruitz, there to rest, to reorganize and to re-enforce. Only a single week previously it had been... *the last Battalion in the last Brigade of Canadians to leave the SOMME* (Excerpt from 73rd Battalion War Diary).

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The 73rd Battalion (*Royal Highlanders of Canada*) was an element of the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade, itself a component of the 4th Canadian Division. The Division had been transferred from England to the Continent in August of 1916, passing through, as Private Jackson was to do, the port – but not the Base Depot - of Le Havre. The 73rd Battalion had then spent two days at the Canadian Infantry Base Depot there before travelling northward on two trains.

Journeying through the larger northern French centres of Arras and Amiens, Boulogne and Saint-Omer, the unit had de-trained on Belgian soil in the town of Poperinghe.

The 73rd Battalion had arrived in the rear area of the *Ypres Salient*, one of the most lethal theatres of the Great War, and where the by-now veteran Canadian 1st Division was to play a role in the formation of the new-comers.

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

The 73rd Battalion had subsequently – and briefly – experienced the daily routines, rigours and perils of life in the trenches of the *Western Front*. After a final tour in the forward area, it had been relieved on September 23 and the unit's short experience of the *Ypres Salient* had thus drawn to a close. The Battalion's casualties for the month had been three killed and twenty-three wounded – extremely light for *the Salient*.

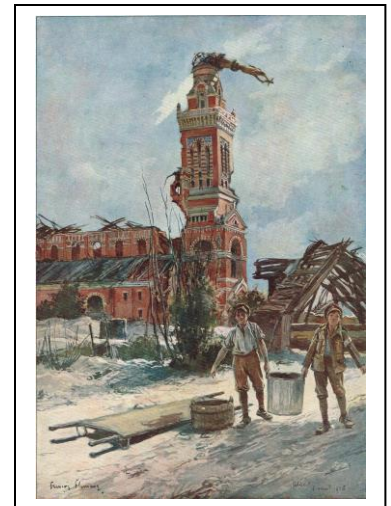


The troops which had arrived to take the place of the 73rd Battalion on that day had been Irish; they had only recently been withdrawn from the area of *the Somme* where they had by that time, for almost three months, been fighting, in the first of three battles to be designated by that name.

After several days of changing billets, the 73rd Battalion spent a week at Hellebroucq in training for upcoming operations in the cauldron from which its recently-made Irish acquaintances had just retired.

On October 3 the Battalion had marched to nearby Arques where it had then entrained. On the following day it had arrived in the rear area of *the Somme*, at Candas, from where it had continued on foot in pouring rain to Beauval where billets had been prepared to receive it.

On succeeding days the unit had then marched again: to Bonneville, to Toutencourt and on to Warloy-Baillon where it there underwent a period of training, before finally, on the 13th of the month, through the provincial town of Albert to the camp at *Tara Hill* where it... *Bivouaced* (sic) *in a muddy field* (*War Diary*)... and provided various working-parties for the next dozen or so days.



(Right above: *Canadian soldiers at work carrying water in the centre of Albert, the already-damaged basilica to be seen in the background – from Illustration*)

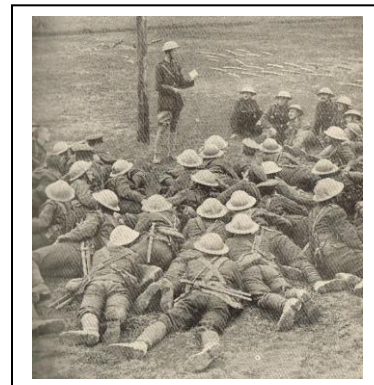
By October of 1916, the *First Battle of the Somme* had been ongoing for some three months. It had begun with the disastrous attack of July 1, an assault which had cost the British Army fifty-seven thousand casualties – in the short space of only four hours - of which some nineteen-thousand dead.

On that first day all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been from the British Isles, the exceptions being the two-hundred men of the Bermuda Rifles serving in the Lincolnshire Regiment, and the eight-hundred personnel of the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment which was to lose so heavily on that July 1 at Beaumont-Hamel.

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

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



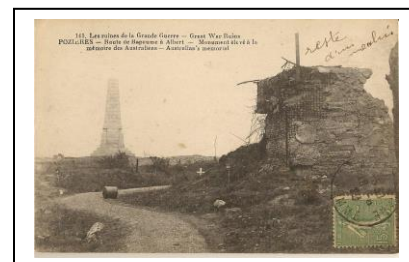
(Right below: *The Canadian Memorial which stands to the side of the Albert-Bapaume Road near the village of Courcelette – photograph from 2015*)

The 73rd Battalion had arrived in the area of *the Somme* at a later stage of the offensive than had many other Canadian units; indeed, by the middle of October, many of those first on the scene either already had been - or were being - withdrawn, in more than a few cases necessitated by the high incidence of casualties. However, the 73rd Battalion was nonetheless now to remain posted at *Tara Hill Camp* for the following thirteen days.



On October 26, the 73rd Battalion, by now ready to fill the void, moved forward to an area between the once-villages – now mounds of debris - of Pozières and Contalmaison.

(Right and right below: *The remnants of Pozières just after the conflict, with the Australian Memorial in the gloom - and also as it is almost a century later – from a vintage post-card and from 2016*)



There it remained in Brigade Reserve until October 30 when it moved forward once more, 'A' Company being *in support* at a junction of two trench systems. This was to prove to be a short tour which terminated on the night of November 2-3; there had been no infantry action to report, although the enemy artillery was apparently active at times.

Casualties for that period had been eight *killed in action*, forty-three *wounded* with twenty-six others evacuated to hospital for divers other reasons.



During the following week while behind the lines... *Special training carried on in conjunction with the rest of the Brigade, in practising for a general attack with the whole Brigade involved, 72nd and 73rd to lead in this attack...*

(Right below: *Wounded soldiers at the Somme being evacuated to the rear area in hand-carts – from Le Miroir*)

On the late evening of November 11 the... *Regiment proceeded into the trenches...*

In fact, according to the Battalion War Diary, the attack by the Canadians was not to be delivered as planned. Instead, the various units were ordered to dig new trenches and to consolidate older positions in expectation of an enemy counter-attack, a fear re-enforced by information elicited from German prisoners.

It would appear that neither side moved, and thus the Canadians spent two days preparing for something that never came about. Maybe the extremely heavy artillery-fire delivered by both sides had influenced the decision not to attack.

On the night of November 13-14, the 73rd Battalion was withdrawn, its place to be thereupon taken in the line by the 47th Battalion. The numbers of casualties incurred during this two-day period had been, all told, fourteen *killed in action* and thirty-eight *wounded*.

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

Two more weeks were to pass before the 73rd Battalion left behind it the *First Battle of the Somme* and a casualty count to which had been added at least a further sixty during those final days. The withdrawal itself had been made on foot, commencing November 29 with the unit marching to the west before turning northwards to pass behind the battered city of Arras. The trek continued beyond Arras, to Ruitz, which was arrived at on December 5.

There the Battalion was to remain for the next seventeen days, in billets which were reportedly – at least at the outset – ...*in poor condition* – this the opinion of the 73rd Battalion War Diarist.

This then, was when – on or about December 8-9 - and where Private Jackson reported *to duty*.

(Right above: *A detachment from a Canadian-Scottish regiment, proceeded by its pipe band, marches toward the front. – from Le Miroir*)

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



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It was not to be until Christmas Eve that Private Jackman likely received his first taste of life in the front-line trenches* – or in the support trenches a few hundred metres to the rear - as it was on that December 24, 1916, Christmas Eve, that his 73rd Battalion relieved the 46th Canadian Battalion in the area of Souchez.

(Right below: *The village of Souchez in 1915, before the arrival of the British and Canadians in the sector – from Le Miroir*)

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

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

(Right: *A photograph of Canadian troops in support positions somewhere on the Somme in the autumn of 1916, only months earlier having been equipped with those steel helmets and, less visible, British Short Lee-Enfield Mark III Rifles – from Illustration*)

The occasions spent in reserve were opportunities for training, lectures, inspections by the upper echelons – usually the further away from the front, the more important was the visitor – route marches, sports, with perhaps the odd concert or other entertainment being brought in to support the troops.

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

In the forward areas life was both hard and monotonous, if also inevitably at times dangerous: there were parties of the construction, wiring and carrying variety; and patrolling and raiding on a local scale were often the norm, as were rat-catching and lice-hunts. Most casualties were caused by enemy artillery - and occasionally one's own – although snipers were also a constant peril.

During that winter of 1917, there was little concerted infantry activity undertaken by either side; nevertheless, in the case of the 73rd Battalion, a major enemy raid was repulsed on January 7th, and the unit undertook a costly large-scale operation of its own on March 1.



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

Excerpt from the 73rd Battalion War Diary entry for the above-mentioned March 1, 1917: At five minutes past mid-night...code message was received from the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade to the effect that the Gas Attack and consequent Infantry Attack, which had been postponed for several days, would take place that morning.



Excerpt from the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade War Diary entry for March 1, 1917: A Gas Raid was carried out by 15 Officers and 300 Other Ranks of 72nd Canadian Bn. and 18 Officers and 460 Other Ranks of the 73rd Canadian Bn. with the co-operation of the 10th and 11th Cd. Inf. Bdes. A large enemy bomb dump was blown up and part of his F.L.T. (front-line trench) systematically destroyed. Several Machine Guns were destroyed and approximately 22 dugouts were bombed or treated with mobile charges. A large number of the enemy were killed.

The 73rd Battalion War Diary recorded the unit's casualties as – *all ranks* - twenty-seven killed in action or died of wounds, one-hundred three wounded and thirty-one missing in action. More were later to die of wounds.

After that latter exercise, the Battalion was withdrawn into reserve to Bouvigny and *Bouvigny Huts* for a period of training from March 4 to 16; then it was back in the line for three days before moving back into support positions at Cabaret Rouge*.

**The British Cemetery of the same name, Cabaret Rouge, is the one from which the body of the Canadian Unknown Soldier was exhumed on May 16 of the year 2000, to lie in Ottawa, in front of the National War Memorial.*



(Above right: *A part of Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez – photograph from 2010*)

Parades, inspections, training – bayonet-fighting, bombing, musketry – sports (particularly football), lectures, route marches, medal presentations – with the occasional bath and concert added to the mix on occasion: this was the syllabus offered to the Battalion during those twelve days of training in March.

To these preparations were to be added some novel developments: use of enemy weapons; the familiarization of each unit and of each man with his role during the upcoming battle; the construction of ground layouts built, thanks to aerial reconnaissance, to show the terrain and positions to be attacked; the introduction of the machine-gun barrage; and the excavation of kilometres of approach tunnels, not only for the safety of the attacking troops but also to ensure the element of surprise.

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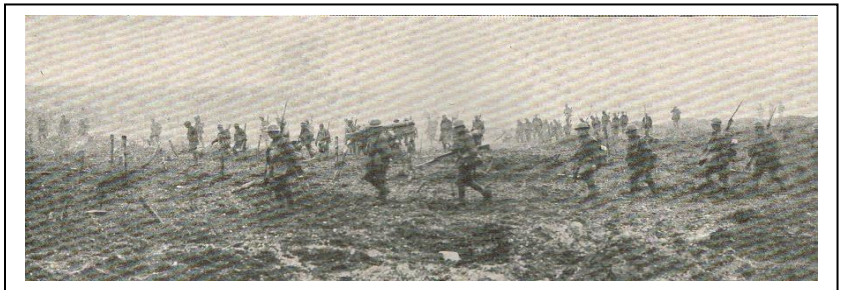
A second, shorter, training period began on March 30 when the Battalion was then ordered into Brigade Reserve at Chateau de la Haie. There it began – as did many other Canadian units – a further week of intensive exercises and preparation. The *Battle of Arras* was in the offing.

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



The British campaign proved to be an overall disappointment: the French offensive was to be a further disaster.

(Right above: *The Canadian National Memorial which, since 1936, has stood atop Vimy Ridge – photograph from 2010*)



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

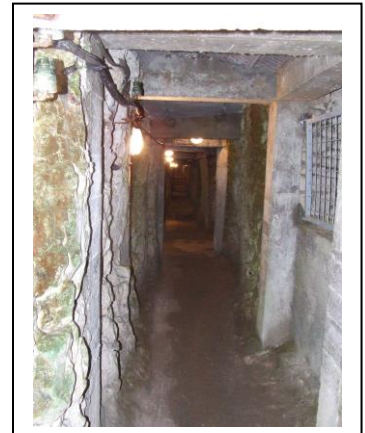
On that April 9, in driving snow, the four Canadian Divisions, acting as a single, autonomous entity, stormed the slope of *Vimy Ridge*, by the end of the next day having cleared it almost entirely of its German occupants.

Several kilometres of tunnel had been hewn out of the chalk under the approaches to the front lines of *Vimy Ridge*, underground accesses which afforded physical safety and also the element of surprise during the hours – and in some cases, days – leading up to the attack.

The 73rd Battalion War Diary records that the unit had already been in the area of the front line for three days when 'A' and 'C' Companies entered *Coburg Subway (Tunnel)* at eleven o'clock in the morning of April 8. They were to remain there for the time preceding the moment of the early-morning attack some eighteen-and-a-half hours later.

'B' Company was moved into trenches and was kept in Brigade Reserve. Later in the day of the attack it was to support both the 78th Battalion and also the 72nd Battalion.

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

As related above, this was the first occasion on which the Canadian Divisions were to act in concert as the Canadian Army Corps rather than as an addendum to a British formation. In fact, a British brigade, was to fight under Canadian command at *Vimy Ridge*. There were apparently also two others held in reserve.

At five-thirty on the morning of April 9, mines were detonated under the German lines and the creeping barrage commenced, followed immediately by the infantry close behind.

The Canadian 3rd and 4th Divisions had been given the responsibility for the capture of the *Ridge* itself and, while in places the enemy resistance had posed problems, for the most part, the operation was to be – perhaps unexpectedly – successful. The War Diary reported that the first objectives of the day had been in the hands of the 73rd Battalion only ten minutes after zero hour, at five-forty, and also that the first prisoners were being sent back at the same time.



(Right above: German prisoners being sent on their way back under escort through the Canadian lines – from Illustration)

For the remainder of that day and the next, Private Jackman's unit consolidated its gains against the expected enemy counter-attacks. Surprisingly, they never came to pass, and on the few occasions where an assault seemed likely, the enemy was countered by the Canadian artillery. But, by the evening of April 10, the Battalion had apparently incurred sufficient casualties* – and with a lack of replacements exacerbating the problem – for the High Command to decide to dissolve the unit and to disperse its personnel to other formations.

**Ironically enough, suffered during the first attacks on Hill 145 (see 85th Battalion below). Apparently, however, the 73rd Battalion authorities were to dispute this.*

Thus the 73rd Battalion retired from the line on April 13 and, three days later, was disbanded. Private Jackman was to be despatched to the 85th Battalion, to be *taken on strength* by that unit on April 18-19.

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Much of the early history of the 85th Battalion is already known to us as it is inter-twined with that of the 185th Battalion into which Charley Jackman had been recruited. Thus the reader is asked to pardon those repetitious moments which may occur in the following paragraphs.

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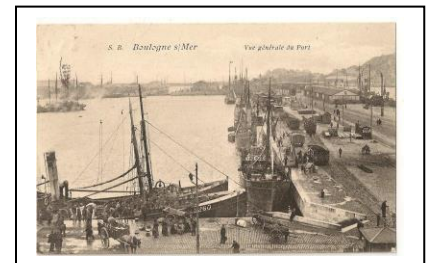
The 85th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*) had been organized in Canada in late 1915. The unit had taken passage to the United Kingdom in October of the following year – travelling on *Olympic* – and had been despatched to France in February of 1917 to be a future element of the 4th Canadian Division which had disembarked in France as late as August of 1916.

The unit, having been stationed at Witley, had passed through the English-Channel port of Folkestone on February 10 to embark onto His majesty's Transport *London* for passage to the Continent. The Battalion had disembarked at noon that day in the French port of Boulogne, to march to the nearby *St. Martin's Rest Camp*.

By February 14 it had travelled inland to report to Gouy-Servins where it had remained until the second day of March.

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

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



A goodly number of sources at this point in the 85th Battalion's history appear to err, often by *omission* it must be said, rather than by *commission* - the author pleads guilty of having originally made the same mistake: While these sources record the Nova Scotia unit as being with the 12th Brigade of the 4th Division, this omits the fact – confirmed by the 11th Brigade War Diary – that it was as an element of *this* formation (see immediately below) that the 85th Brigade served until after the action of April 9 at *Vimy Ridge*:

Excerpt from 11th Brigade... *Operational Order No. 51 issued at 11.15 a.m., 12.IV.17 – On relief the 85th Bn will pass to command of G.O.C. 12th Brigade...*

It appears that the 85th Battalion as an entity moved forward to the front line for the first time only on April 8. It apparently had been officially designated as a *working unit*, to be employed in reserve. However, due to its Commanding Officer's insistence, it had been undergoing exercises for several weeks before training on prepared sites at *Bouvigny Huts...in meticulous fashion...*and its officers being briefed on the upcoming operation.

This insistence by the unit's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Borden, and all those preparations, were to stand the Battalion in good stead for what was to follow.

What followed, of course, was to be the Canadian attack of April 9, 1917 on *Vimy Ridge*, an operation in which the 85th Battalion was to play a conspicuous role late in the afternoon.

However, prior to this as yet unforeseen duty, the tasks of the 85th Battalion on that day had been ordered as follows: *Construction and filling Dump at Strong Points 5 and 6; Construction of deep dug-out...; Digging C(ommunication) T(rench) from front Assembly Trench...; Party to carry wire and assist Brigade wiring party on construction...; Party to carry forward ammunition for Stokes Guns; Prisoners of War Escort Party; Battle Police...*

The fundamental history of the attack of April 9, Easter Monday, 1917, on *Vimy Ridge*, as well as the role of the 73rd Battalion, has already been narrated in these pages: but that of the 85th Battalion has not.

The attack on *Vimy Ridge* took place on the opening day of the five-week-long *Battle of Arras*. The days and weeks that followed were to be less memorable than were April 9 and 10, and before long the realities of life in the trenches were to take hold once more.

As seen, the 85th Battalion had not been assigned a place in the initial assault but had been designated as a reserve force. However, the caprices of war were about to play a role in the unit's history: At three o'clock on the afternoon of April 9, the C.O. of the 85th battalion had been ordered to despatch two of his four Companies, one to each of the 87th and 102nd Battalions whose assault was being jeopardized by the enemy from positions on top of the crest. He was also ordered to be in position with the remainder of his command, at half-past four, in two of those well-known tunnels, there to await further orders.

Those orders had arrived thirty minutes early: *BATTER trench...is strongly held by fresh enemy... Will attack it with 2 companies of 85th...*

4.15 p.m. – G.O.C. (General Officer Commanding) arranges assault on BATTER...by 85th Battalion...

6.30 p.m. – 85th Battalion attacked without a barrage, and reached their objectives without much opposition.

(Excerpts from the 85th Battalion War Diary entry for April 9, 1917)



(Right above: *The battle-field of Vimy Ridge on April 10, two unidentified fallen in the fore-ground – from Illustration*)

Apparently the objectives in question were known collectively as *Hill 145* which, once taken, was thereupon consolidated into a strong-point by the 85th Battalion.

Today the Canadian National Memorial stands atop that same *Hill 145*.



(Right above: *A part of Vimy Ridge and the Canadian National Memorial as seen from La Chaudière, on April 9, 1917, in what was at the time German-occupied territory – photograph from 1915*)

On the days following, the Battalion had been involved in a general advance but there was not to be the same success as on April 9. On April 13 the 11th Brigade had been relieved and the 85th Battalion moved back to the *Bouvigny Huts* where it had been quartered in March. From this time forward, until the end of the *Great War*, having earned its place with the capture of *Hill 145*, it was to serve as a component of the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

By April 18 the Battalion had moved from the *Bouvigny Huts* to not-so-distant La Targette (also referred to as *Aux Reitz*). As has been already seen, the 73rd Battalion was to be disbanded on or about April 16. Two days later, on April 18, the War Diarist of the 85th Battalion made the following entry in his journal: *Transport of 73rd Bn. transferred to this unit.* On the next day again he added: *More...personnel of 73rd transferred to this unit.*



Thus Private Jackman was *taken on strength* by the 85th Battalion.

(Right above: *French and British Commonwealth dead lie in cemeteries at La Targette.* – photograph from 2014)

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Private Jackman's new unit was not to enjoy its respite for long. On April 21 the 85th Battalion moved from La Targette to *Canada Camp* at Chateau de la Haie; there, on the following day, it was ordered to form part of a composite Canadian brigade which was to support a British attack. The unit was *...to be ready to move forward on half hours notice any time after 6 a.m. 23/4/17.*

The Battalion was left...*standing to*...all that April 23 and presumably then all night before it moved forward at eleven o'clock on the next morning. The move was not completed until three o'clock in the morning of the next day again, April 25, when it found itself in positions fronting the Lens to Vimy railway line.



(Right above: *Canadian troops under fire in the Lens Sector of the front during the spring or summer of 1917* – from *Illustration*)

By that time, plans had apparently changed: for the remainder of that day and the next the unit spent most of its time digging a new front-line trench. A few spare hours were spent in simulating an attack on the German positions opposite in order to divert the enemy's attention from the adjacent sector where the Canadian 1st and 2nd Divisions were going to put in a real attack on April 28. For its troubles on that April 26, the 85th Battalion received much unwelcome artillery attention which resulted in a number of casualties.

This exercise in deception was repeated on April 28 before the unit retired into support positions on the following day, to an area where it remained until May 2 when it moved forward once more. On May 6 Private Jackman and his Battalion withdrew entirely from the forward area into reserve.

During that four-day tour the 85th Battalion had not been involved in any infantry action but it had not been inactive – the Battalion War Diary records:

(continued)

Work done during tour:- BADDECK TRENCH was completed – GRENADIER TRENCH was deepened – HALIFAX TRENCH improved – Block advanced – BORDEN TRENCH deepened and completed across the whole front. Casualties during tour – from 2nd the 6th inclusive – 2 OFFICERS and 20 Other Ranks

The following days and weeks were to be spent in much the same manner: back and forth from reserve to the front-line trenches with time spent in-between the two in support. Casualties were relatively light, almost all caused by enemy gun-fire. When not in the firing-line the Battalion personnel supplied man-power for working-parties and carrying-parties.



And the weather for the most part was apparently ...*fine and warm*.

(Right above: A Canadian carrying-party loading up before moving up to the forward area, one of the many tasks allocated to troops when they were not manning the front lines: The use of the head-band - the 'tump'- was adopted from the North American indigenous peoples. – from *Le Miroir*)

Thus it was, in early May of 1917 that the role of Private Jackson's unit in the *First Battle of Arras* sputtered to its close. However, on a more personal – as well as military - level, the late spring and early summer of that 1917 was to offer at least *one* moment of presumed satisfaction to Private Jackson.

It was to occur on June 15: Private Jackson's Battalion, although apparently – according to its War Diary - not having played a part in any major action during that month of May, had incurred sufficient casualties on a daily basis – *wastage* as Haig so eloquently termed it – for there to be a deficiency of non-commissioned officers. Private Jackson was one of those elevated to the rank of lance corporal on that date.

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



(Right above: *Canadian troops advancing under fire in the Lens Sector during the late summer of 1917 – from Illustration or Le Miroir*)

The Canadians would be a major contributor to this effort, the best-documented action of which was to be the confrontation fought at *Hill 70* by troops of the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions. However, troops of the 4th Canadian Division were not to be involved in this operation, and certainly *not* Lance Corporal Jackson who had been granted leave from August 4 to 15 – although where he spent that period appears not to have been recorded among his papers.



(Preceding page: *This gentle slope rising to the left is, in fact, Hill 70. A monument to the 15th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry stands nearby in tribute. This successful operation showed the progress that had been recently made, particularly in artillery tactics. – photograph from 1914*)

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

While not heavily involved in the Canadian-led summer campaign of 1917 in the mining area of the Lens-Béthune Sectors, the 85th Battalion was slated to play its part in that other ongoing offensive, the one in Belgium, further to the north – a battle that has come to symbolize the wretchedness of war. Officially designated the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, taking that name from a small village on a ridge that was – ostensibly - one of the British Army's objectives.

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

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

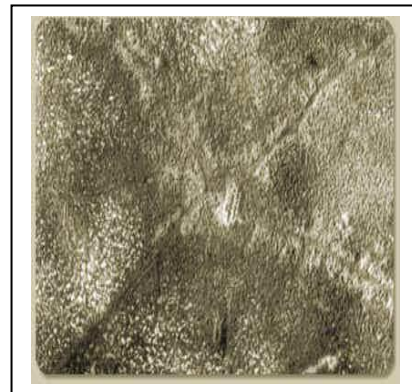
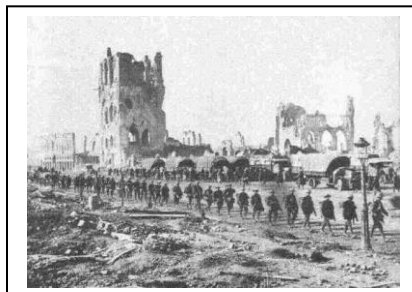
From the time that the Canadians entered the fray, it was they who shouldered a great deal of the burden. During the week of October 26 until November 3 it was the 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions which spearheaded the assault, with the 1st and 2nd Divisions in reserve. From November 5 until the official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

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

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

The 85th Battalion had been in action during the final two days of October and had incurred more than fifty per cent casualties among both officers and *other ranks*: a total of six-hundred eighty-eight went into action; three-hundred ninety-four had become casualties. The unit was shattered.

(continued)



The 85th Battalion was thereupon withdrawn to the south from *Passchendaele* in the first week of November, 1917, and was once more back in France, in the area of Lens, and enduring the glamour of life in the trenches.

(Right: *The monument to the 85th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) which stands in a field by the side of the road from Zonnebeke to Passendale (Passchendaele) – photograph from 2014*)



By November 20, the 85th Battalion had withdrawn to the area of the commune of Raimbert, not far removed from the larger northern centre of Béthune. The time spent there behind the lines was to comprise the usual training, competitions, sports, lectures, church-parades, musketry, gas-drills, inspections, concerts, re-enforcements, working-parties... the list in the Battalion War Diary *does* go on... but the Diarist has omitted *one* event.

(Right below: *A photograph, from 1917, of a Canadian soldier during training in the use of his 'gas-helmet': As may be imagined, it was difficult for the wearer to perform the duties of a soldier, particularly in the event of an attack. – from Le Miroir*)

The month of December offered something a little different – and a reminder of home - to all the Canadian military formations and units which were serving overseas at the time: the Canadian General Election. Polls for the Army were open from December 4 until 17, and participation, in at least *some* units, was in the ninety per cent range*.

**Apparently, at the same time, the troops were given the opportunity to subscribe to Canada's Victory War Loan. Thus the soldier fighting the war was also encouraged to pay for it as well.*

On New Year's Day of 1918, twenty-five officers and men of the 85th Battalion were decorated by the Commander of the 4th Canadian Division, Major-General D. Watson KCB, CMG. Twenty of these awards were the Military Medal.



Extract from the London Gazette, Number 30573 of Tuesday March 12, 1918, page 3251:

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Military Medal for bravery to the undermentioned Non-commissioned Officers and Men:-

877118 L./C. C. Jackson Inf.



Citation from Canadian records: *For conspicuous gallantry in Action during the operations of PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE from October 29th to November 2nd, 1917.*

(continued)

As No. 1 on his Lewis gun this man displayed great courage and coolness in the advance. He was the only one left of the gun crew and took up an important fire position, operated his gun and held the post alone to great effect under heavy shell fire preventing the enemy massing for a counter attack on the right flank. Later, when his gun was put out of action by shell fire, he obtained another gun, also out of action, and a supply of ammunition and in a shell hole under heavy fire, he assembled a complete gun from the two, which he immediately brought to bear on the enemy to great effect.

After that, the winter of 1917-1918 had been a quiet period, just as had been the three previous winters of the *Great War*. The 85th Battalion War Diary suggests little offensive activity on the part of the unit and the number of casualties per diem are few.

When it served in the front line and in support positions, Lance Corporal Jackman's battalion was in such areas as Méricourt and Lens; when withdrawn into reserve – which it appears to have been for much of that winter – it was posted to Château de la Haie, Souchez, Petit Servins and to Raimbert.

It was during the posting to Raimbert, on March 6, that Lance Corporal Jackson was awarded a first *Good Conduct Badge**, presented to those privates and lance corporals whose name had not appeared on the Regimental (mis-)Conduct Sheet – the record apparently carried over from service with previous units.

**The badge was a chevron with the apex pointed upwards and was worn on the left-hand sleeve of the uniform.*

On March 13, however, Lance Corporal Jackson's Battalion was ordered into support positions in the Cité St-Pierre, one of the mining districts encompassing city of Lens. On March 18 the unit moved up into the front line where it was still serving on the 21st, the first day of spring, 1918.



(Right above: *While the Germans did not attack Lens, the sector where the 85th Battalion was serving, in March of 1918, but they bombarded it heavily during the time of their offensive in order to keep the British uncertain about their intentions and to oblige them to retain troops in the area. – from Le Miroir*)

Perhaps not many people realize how close the Germans came to victory in the spring of 1918. Having transferred the divisions no longer necessary on the Eastern Front because of the Russian withdrawal from the War, the enemy then launched a massive attack, Operation '*Michael*', on March 21.

The main blow fell at *the Somme* in the area of, and also just to the south of, the former battlefields of 1916, and it fell for the most part on the British and Commonwealth troops serving there.

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

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

(Right: British troops on the retreat in Belgian Flanders during ‘Georgette’ in mid-April of 1918 – from Illustration)



At first there had been a great deal of indecision displayed by the Canadian High Command and units were being transferred, often in a circular fashion, with orders given before soon afterwards being countermanded.

The object of these exercises had been two-fold: to relieve and release British troops to fight further south; and to secure the area of Arras which appeared to be – and which later *proved* to be – the northern limit of the German offensive. However, it also produced a great deal of unnecessary confusion.



Thus the 85th Battalion found itself towards the end of March ordered into *the Neuville St-Vaast Sector* and in the area of St-Éloi, just north of Arras. It may well have been during the posting to St-Éloi that Lance Corporal Jackson re-joined his unit after having undergone an eleven-day course at the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp in the vicinity of the coastal town of Étaples.

(Right above: *The City Hall of Arras and its venerable bell-tower looked like this by the spring of 1918 after nearly four full years of bombardment by German artillery.* – from a vintage post-card)

(Right above and right: *The village of Mont St-Éloi, adjacent to Écoivres, at an early period of the Great War and again a century later - The ruins of the Abbey St-Éloi – partly destroyed in 1793 and further again in the war – are visible in both images.* – from *Le Miroir* and (colour) from 2016)



Towards the end of that April a relative calm descended on the front lines as the German threat faded – the offensive had won for the enemy a great deal of ground, but nothing of any real military significance in either of the two theatres of operation. Nor was the calm particularly surprising: both sides had been exhausted and needed time to once more reorganize and – less and less feasible in these later years of the war – to re-enforce.



The Allies, from the point of view of available re-enforcements, were even so by now a lot better off than their German adversaries – they had two empires to draw from and the Americans were now belatedly arriving on the scene. An overall Commander-in-Chief had been appointed, Foch, and he was setting about organizing a counter-offensive.

Thus the front was to remain quiet – until the second week in August.

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

If the front was quiet during the months of May, June and July – the everyday patrols and the occasional raid notwithstanding – the 85th Battalion until July 25 was in any case not in any position to know. It seems to have spent eighty-one consecutive days at various places in the rear area – Monchy-Breton, Valhoun, Lozinghem and Écoivres – in training and the like. It was not to be until July 25 that it relieved the 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion in the front line, *Fampoux Sector*, just north-east of Arras.



(Right and right below: *Écoivres Military Cemetery seen at the time of - or just after – the Great War, and as it is a century later – from a vintage post-card and (colour) from 1915)*

During the month of July, once more Lance Corporal Jackson had been absent – from the 13th until the 29th - from his Battalion, on this occasion for a sixteen-day course, the venue again the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp at Étaples. It was for further training on the Lewis gun, a light machine-gun with a two-man crew, a weapon with which, according to his Military Medal citation, he was already well acquainted.



Only six days after its July 25th move to the forward area, the 85th Battalion was on the move once more, having been relieved on July 31 in turn by a British battalion... *Proceeded by light railway to billets at AUBIN. The whole Corps is moving in a few days – in fact has started now. For where – no one knows but it looks like a big scrap ahead...* (Excerpt from 85th Battalion entry for July 31, 1918)



On the morrow, August 1, the 85th Battalion War Diarist's entry for the day continues as follows: *Fine. Word received regarding probable move by the whole Canadian Corps with a rumour of operations to follow. Nothing definite as to whether North or South*. Preparations being made for a quick move, as it has to be done on the Battalions (sic) own wheels.*

**It was to be south. However, several Canadian units were to be sent in the opposite direction, north, into Belgium with orders to make themselves as conspicuous as possible in order to give the impression of a major operation soon to be undertaken in that area.*

That August 8, a week the 85th Battalion's departure from the area of Arras, would be the opening day of the Allied offensive, the greater part on this occasion British-, Commonwealth- and French-led, which in conjunction with other advances, was to result in the Armistice of November 11.

On the Allied side this succession of battles became known to history as *the Hundred Days – Les Cent Jours*: what the Germans called it is less certain, although August 8 was to be, as far as Ludendorff was concerned, *the Black Day of the German Army (Der Schwartz Tag)*.

By that August 8, the 85th Battalion had travelled south-west by train to disembark at Hangest-sur-Somme – about half-way between Abbéville and Amiens – and from there had marched some twenty-five kilometres westward to the smaller community of Vergies.

(Right: *Tanks in ever-increasing numbers were to be used by the Allies in the last battles of the Great War. In 1917 the British formed the Tank Corps, a force which became ever stronger in 1918 as evidenced by this photograph of a tank park, once again ‘somewhere in France’. Many of the troops to be involved in the fighting from this time onwards underwent training in the company of tanks. – from Illustration*)



This transfer had taken place on August 3 and 4 by which time the Battalion War Diarist had become apprised of the reason for all this activity: *The scheme will be known as the L.C. (Llandoverly (sic) Castle) Operation, and will take place in a very few days, on a front of from 20 to 30 miles, East of Amiens, to a depth in places of eight miles. The show will be staged by the 3rd British Corps, Australians, Canadian Corps, and the 3rd French Army, all under Field Marshal, Sir Douglas Haig. The principal objective of the operation, to relieve the pressure on AMIENS.*

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

At nine o'clock on the evening of August 4, the Battalion had begun another long march of about twenty-eight kilometres to the eastward, to Briquemesnil, where it arrived at five in the morning of the 5th.

Two days later again there had been a further overnight... *hard march...*to the *Bois de Boves*, some nine kilometres to the south of Amiens. Yet another trek that night – August 7-8 – was to bring Lance Corporal Jackman's Battalion to its assembly point in the Bois de Gentelles from where the attack of August 8 was to be launched on the next morning.



Whereas the first part of the transfer had been accomplished mostly by train and by motor transport, the second part had been done by night marches, and around to the west and then the south of Amiens to keep the movement from the eyes of any German aviation observers. It worked: the Germans were totally taken by surprise.

(continued)

Thus the assault was to prove an overwhelming success, with territorial gains rarely seen since the opening weeks of the war in 1914. The 85th Battalion continued in its advance until August 18 when the unit was relieved and ordered withdrawn into Divisional Reserve – yet still, it would seem, within artillery range.

(Right: *August 8: captured positions on the Somme being consolidated by Canadian troops against a German counter-attack* – from *Le Miroir*)



The Battalion War Diarist reported twenty-seven killed and one-hundred fifteen wounded for the entire month of August – still too many, to be sure, but far from those appalling figures of *Passchendaele*.

(Right: *In one of the many villages liberated from the Germans, Canadian and enemy wounded await evacuation to the rear.* – from *Le Miroir*)



The 85th Battalion was not to return to the forward area until the night of August 31-September 1 when the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade was despatched to the front line.

But the forward area to which it was sent was no longer the *Amiens Front*. By that time, and in just as much secrecy as three weeks prior, the entire Canadian Corps had been transported by many of the same itineraries back whence it had come and by now it was already positioned on the new *Arras Front* and ready to deliver a further attack.

A first offensive in this area to the east of Arras had already been launched by the Canadians and British during the final days of August. On September 2, other units - including Lance Corporal Jackson's Battalion - passed to the offensive, attacking the trenches of the Drocourt-Quéant Line, advancing along the axis of the Arras-Cambrai road as far as, and then capturing, Dury village.

(Right: *Some of the ground on which fighting took place at the end of August and beginning of September of 1918: The Arras to Cambrai road – looking in the direction of Cambrai – may be perceived just left of centre on the horizon.* – photograph from 2015)



Excerpts from the 85th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*) War Diary Appendices pertinent to the offensive operations of September 2, 1918:

...The task allotted to the 85th C.I. Battalion, NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS, was to break through the DROCOURT-QUEANT Line and DROCOURT-QUEANT Support Line...

(continent)

...The Battalion plan of operations was that there be six waves of two lines each...the first two waves of "D" and "A" Companies...whose objective was...(a part of)...the DROCOURT-QUEANT 4th Line system (1st day objective)...the 3rd and 4th waves, made up of "C" Company, allotted the task of cleaning up the area between the 1st objective...and support lines...and to capture and consolidate the latter. The 5th and 6th waves made up of "B" Company, were to leapfrog "C" Company and capture...the Sunken Road...

Account of the Action:- At zero hour, 5.00 a.m., the Battalion jumped off as ordered, but as no Tanks had, up to that time, appeared of our Battalion frontage, "A" and "D" Companies cleared the area, which was held by a strong machine gun post, between the jump-off and the barrage line... These posts...were untouched by our artillery fire.

In passing over the first 300 yards of our advance the Battalion losses amounted to approximately 50% of our total casualties throughout the whole action... However, in spite of heavy opposition from numerous machine-guns, with the arrival of the tanks, the first objective was reported as having been taken by a quarter past six that morning.



(Right above: Douglas Haig, C.-in-C. of British and Commonwealth forces on the Western Front inspects Canadian troops after their successful operation of September 2 against the German Drocourt-Quéant Line – from Le Miroir)

The second objective was to fall at seven-thirty, seventy-five minutes later. ...Particularly heavy direct and indirect machine-gun fire was here encountered, both from the flanks and from our direct front... The Bosche had established strong machine gun posts both in the Mill* and its immediate vicinity, as well as along the Sunken Road...

***The losses there were among the heaviest of the war: of the three-hundred thirty-seven dead interred in Dury Mill British Cemetery, only nine did not serve in a Canadian unit, and all but eighteen were to die on September 2 of 1918.**

(Right: Dury Mill British Cemetery is to be found in fields just off the northern side of the Arras-Cambrai route nationale, not far to the east of Monchy-le-Preux. – photograph from 2016)



The heavy enfilade fire became so intense that the attacking wave suffered heavy casualties... They pushed forward, assaulted and carried the final objective and established outposts... A heavy barrage from the enemy artillery was laid down on the final objective, causing considerable casualties, but no counter attack developed.

This line was held by the 85th Battalion until relieved by the troops of the 11th C.I. Brigade at 11.30 a.m., when the 85th Battalion was drawn back into their first objective, into Brigade Reserve...

(continued)

It is almost certain that by that time, on that September 2, 1918, Lance Corporal Jackson had been wounded. Having incurred gun-shot wounds to the head and to the back, he was evacuated back to the 3rd Canadian Field Hospital, likely a dressing station.

From there on that same date, Lance Corporal Jackson was further removed from the forward area, to be admitted into the 20th Casualty Clearing Station at Heilly, to the west of Albert.

(Right above: *The Canadian Memorial to those who fought at the Drocourt-Quéant Line in early September of 1918: It stands to the side of the main Arras-Cambrai road in the vicinity of the village of Dury and of Mount Dury. – photograph from 2016*)

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

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

There he remained for treatment for a further two days at which time, September 4, he was transported to the 14th General Hospital in the once-coastal-resort of Wimereux, adjacent to the port of Boulogne. Four days later again Lance Corporal Jackson was then moved to the 14th Stationary Hospital, also at Wimereux, where he was to receive more medical attention for another twenty-nine days.

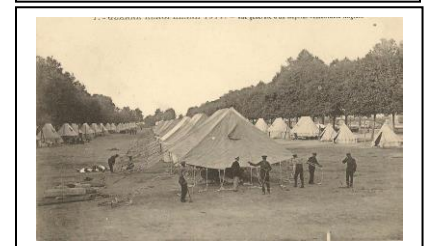
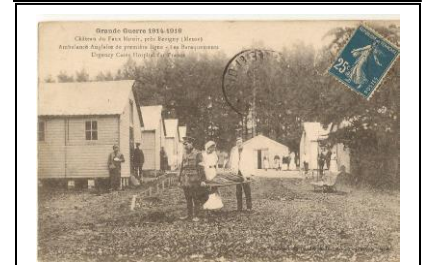
(Right above: *The coastal resort-town of Wimereux in the period before the Great War: During the conflict it became a part of an important British and Commonwealth medical complex. – from a vintage post-card*)

By October 7 it had been decided to despatch Lance Corporal Jackson back to the United Kingdom; thus on that day he was placed on board His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* for the short cross-Channel journey.

(Right: *The photograph of HMHS *Princess Elizabeth* is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

Upon his arrival in England he was transferred to the Special Military Surgical Hospital on Church Lane in the southern Greater London Borough of Tooting. At Wimereux the medical staff had already deemed him to be...*dangerously ill*..., the condition now confirmed at Tooting, those injuries to the head and spine having resulted in paraplegia.

(continued)



Some two weeks later, on October 25, his medical dossier continued to read...*dangerously ill*. On January 21 of the New Year, 1919, eighty-eight days later, was there a glimmer of hope? The reports still showed...*dangerously ill*...but – curiously? – also...*progressing satisfactorily*. It was perhaps too much to hope for...

The son of Philip James Jackson, fisherman, and of Eliza Jackson, deceased June 19, 1896, according to the monument to him which stands in the Anglican Cemetery in Cavendish, Trinity Bay, he was also widower of Elizabeth, deceased in June, 1909, at the age of twenty-four years. He was also – or was possibly – brother to the following: William-J. (cited in records as brother), John-Henry (deceased at the age of two months in 1774), Elizabeth, Abel and Emma-Jane (these last three found in Methodist Parish Records as children of James and Eliza Jackson of Shoal Harbour).

(Right: *The Monument to Lance Corporal Charley Jackson, to his mother Eliza and to his wife Elizabeth, which stands in Cavendish Anglican Cemetery, Trinity Bay – photograph from 1915*)



Lance Corporal Jackson was reported as having *died of wounds* on May 11, 1919, in hospital at Tooting.

Charles Jackman had enlisted at the apparent age of thirty-three years: date of birth at Cavendish, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland – at the time known as *Shoal Harbour* and/or *Shoal Bay* – May 6, 1883.

Lance Corporal Charles (Charley) Jackson was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to criceadam@yahoo.ca. Last updated – January 26, 2023.



