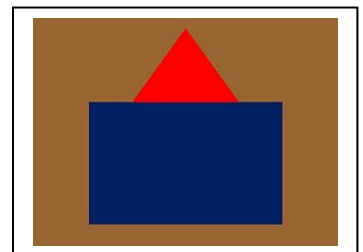




Private Patrick Kennedy (Number 902068) of the 25th Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in Manitoba Cemetery, Caix: Grave reference E 17.

(Right above: The image of the shoulder flash of the 25th Battalion is from the Wikipedia web-site.)

(continued)



His occupations prior to military service recorded as those of both seaman and labourer, Patrick Kennedy appears to have left behind him no information a propos his travels from the Dominion of Newfoundland to New Glasgow in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, his documented place of residence at the time of his enlistment.

This enlistment came about on March 24 of 1916, the day on which he also presented himself for medical examination* and attestation. It was, however, apparently only on April 21 that the Commanding Officer of the 193rd (Overseas) Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force officially... *approved and inspected* his attachment to that particular unit**.

**Although this report is stamped twice – March 24 and April 10.*

***He had, however, been taken on strength by the 193rd Battalion as early as the day of his enlistment, as his pay records confirm.*

Apparently the Battalion was organized in early 1916 in Truro, the Nova Scotian town remaining as the unit's base until May 23 of that same year. Until that date the recruits had trained in detachments in the counties where they had enlisted; thereafter, being mobilized at this time with the four other battalions of the *Highland Brigade*, the unit was to train at Camp Aldershot in Kings County.

It was still to be several months before the 193rd Battalion took passage for *overseas service* to the United Kingdom. Private Kennedy and his unit embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic* - sister-ship of *Britannic*, she to be sunk by a mine in the Mediterranean a month later, and also of the ill-starred *Titanic* - in Halifax on October 12 of 1916.



Olympic was to carry not only the personnel of the 193rd Battalion, but also the 85th, the 188th, the 219th and the 185th Battalion, plus one-half of the 166th Battalion of Canadian Infantry. With the addition of some three hundred miscellaneous *others* who also took passage on her, the vessel was to provide trans-Atlantic accommodation for about six-thousand five-hundred souls.

The ship eventually cleared the port of Halifax at eleven o'clock on the morning of the next day, October 13. Six days later, on October 19*, *Olympic* docked in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool.

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

**Other sources cite October 18.*

From Liverpool Private Kennedy's unit was transported to Witley Camp in the English county of Surrey where, some ten weeks later, he was transferred to the 185th Battalion* (*Cape Breton Highlanders*) which had taken passage on *Olympic* at the same time as had the 193rd.

**Private Kennedy's unit was never to see active service on the Continent. In December of 1916 the 193rd Battalion was broken up and fifteen officers and three-hundred other ranks – one of them Private Kennedy - were transferred to the 185th Battalion.*

A further five months were to pass before Private Kennedy was despatched with a re-enforcement draft to the Continent to report to duty with the 25th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*)* already on duty in France at the time. On May 28, 1917, he was *taken on strength* at one of the by-then four Canadian Infantry Base Depots at Étaples and remained there for almost three weeks before being sent to join the parent unit of the 25th Battalion. This he did on June 15 (War Diary entry) or June 16 (Private Kennedy's records).

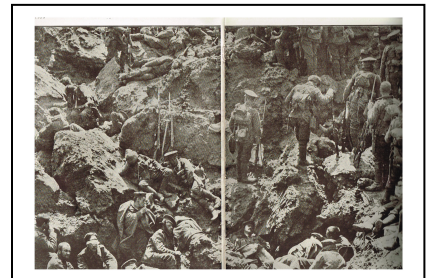
**He was on the 25th Battalion payroll as of May 21.*

* * * * *

The 25th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force had already been serving in France and Belgium for some twenty-one months by this time, since September of the year 1915. It was a unit of the 5th Infantry Brigade, itself an element of the 2nd Canadian Division, and had been in service on the Continent continuously since its arrival on the Western Front.

In early April of 1916, the 2nd Canadian Division had undergone its baptism of fire in a major infantry action. It was at a place to the south of Ypres named St-Éloi where, at the end of March, on the 27th, the British had detonated a series of mines under the German lines and then attacked. The newly-arrived Canadian formation had been ordered to follow up on the presumed British success, to hold and consolidate the newly-won territory.

However, the damage done to the terrain by the explosions, the putrid weather which had turned the just-created craters into ponds and the earth into a quagmire, plus a resolute German defence, greeted the newcomers who took over from the by-then exhausted British on April 5-6. Two weeks later the Germans had won back the lost territory and had inflicted severe losses on the Canadians.



Towards the end of that confrontation the 25th Battalion had relieved another battalion and subsequently had incurred a total of some eighty-five casualties, a greater toll than the unit had known on any single occasion up until that date.

(Right above: *The occupation of a crater in the aftermath of the exploding of a mine under enemy lines – perhaps in the St-Éloi Sector – from Illustration*)

Then six weeks afterwards, in June, the Battalion had been involved in the fighting in the area of *Hooze, Mount Sorrel, Sanctuary Wood, Hill 60* and *Maple Copse*, all just to the south-east of the city of Ypres. The Canadian 3rd Division had been the main recipient of the enemy's offensive thrust which had begun on June 2, but the 25th Battalion of the 2nd Canadian Division had played its role, manning front-line trenches at Zillebeke for three days. The name of *Mount Sorrel* became the first battle honour won by the unit during the Great War.

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

From the middle of June up until August 27 of 1916, the 25th Battalion had been in reserve well to the rear, so well to the rear, in fact, that it had been deemed safe enough for His Majesty the King and his son the Prince of Wales to pay a visit on August 14. Some two weeks later, the unit was withdrawn into northern France to the vicinity of Steenvoorde, and to the village of Moule.



The following week at Moule was spent in becoming familiar with the British Lee-Enfield Mark III rifle which was replacing the Canadian-made Ross rifle, and in training for a Canadian role in the British summer campaign of 1916, an offensive which to that date had not been proceeding exactly to plan.

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

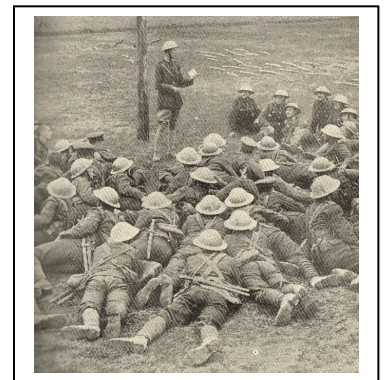
(Right: *The Canadian Memorial which stands to the side of the Albert-Bapaume Road near the village of Courcellette – photograph from 2015*)

On that first day of 1st Somme, all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been troops from the British Isles, those 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 had lost so heavily on that day at Beaumont-Hamel.



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 was to be in the area of the two villages of Flers and Courcellette.

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



(continued)

Meanwhile, on the evening of September 10 the 25th Battalion had arrived at the large military camp which had been established at the Brickfields (*La Briqueterie*) in close proximity to the provincial town of Albert. On the 11th, 12th and 13th the unit trained – at times in co-operation with aircraft – and provided working-parties.

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

On the afternoon of October 14 the Battalion had been ordered forward into dug-outs in assembly areas. On the next morning, September 15, the Canadians were to be going to the attack.

(Excerpt from 25th Battalion War Diary entry for September 15, 1916): *5th Brigade attacked and captured the Town of Courcellette... the 25th Battalion moved forward as though on General Inspection the young soldiers behaving like veterans, going through very heavy artillery barrage without a quiver...*

Of the six-hundred ninety personnel who went over *the top* on the day of the assault, the War Diary recorded thirty-six dead, one-hundred ninety-one wounded and seventy-seven as *missing in action**.

**It seems likely that some of the missing later returned to duty as a later Diary entry records two-hundred fifty-eight casualties all told.*

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

On October 1 the Battalion – its operational strength by then apparently reduced to two-hundred all ranks and twelve machine-guns – *received orders to attack and capture “at all costs” enemy trenched known as KENORA and REGINA... “B”, “C” and “D” Companies... were to proceed over KENORA up to REGINA, which they did, but by the time they had got to the wire the casualties had been so heavy that only one officer was left... and about thirty men...*

The attack was a failure and the survivors had been obliged to fall back to *Kenora Trench*. Total casualties during the action had been a further one-hundred twelve.

(Right above: *Ninety-eight years later, the land on which the action was fought, as seen from Regina Trench Cemetery* – photograph from 2014)

(continued)



(Right below: *Wounded at the Somme being transported in hand-carts from the forward area for further medical attention – from Le Miroir*)

On the night of October 1-2 the 25th Battalion had retired from *the Battle* - and from the area of - *the Somme* and made its way westwards and then northwards, passing to the west of the city of Arras to the region of the mining centre of Lens. It remained in the area and in the trenches of places such as Bully-Grenay, Angres and Bruay for the next four months or so before returning southward to Neuville St-Vaast. One of the neighbouring communities, in German hands at the time, was the village of Vimy.



(Right: *The city of Arras was to endure four years of bombardment during the Great War; the Grand'Place (Grande Place) already looked like this by March of 1917 and more was to follow. – from Le Miroir*)



Towards the end of the month of March, on the 23rd, the Battalion was withdrawn well to the rear, to Maisnil-Bouche, there to undergo intensive training. The exercises were to last until, and including, April 7, only two days before the training was to become the real thing. On the final five days, the unit had been sent to become familiar with ground that had been re-arranged so as to resemble the terrain to be attacked.

On April 8... *Battalion less 1 platoon per company moved from MAISNIL BOUCHE to concentration area at BOIS DES ALLEUX. In the evening the Battalion moved up to its position...via cross country route...* (Battalion War Diary). It apparently did not pass via those well-documented tunnels, kilometres of which had been excavated for reasons of both surprise and safety.

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

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



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

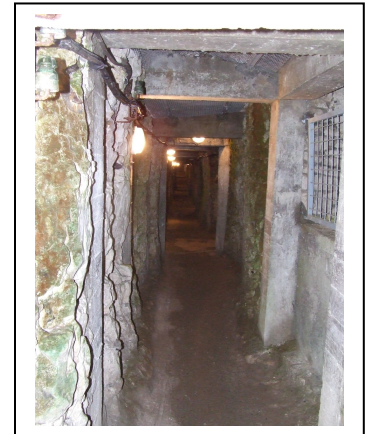
On that April 9, in driving snow, the four Canadian Divisions, for the first time acting as a single, autonomous entity, stormed the slope of Vimy Ridge, by the end of the next day having cleared it almost entirely of its German occupants.

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



The Canadian 2nd Division was not responsible for the taking of Vimy Ridge itself, but for the clearing of the community of Thélus, further down the southern slope and therefore on the right-hand side of the attack. The Battalion's objectives were apparently soon captured and much of the remainder of the day was spent in consolidating these newly-won positions.

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



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

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

There had been, on the first days, April 9 and 10, the opportunity to advance through the shattered enemy defences – the highly-touted, and highly unlikely, *breakthrough* – but such a follow-up of the previous day's success proved to be logistically impossible. Thus the Germans were gifted the time to close the breach and the conflict once more reverted to one of inertia.



Nor was the remainder of the relatively short, five-week long, *Battle of Arras* to be fought in the manner of the first two days and, by the end of those five weeks, little else had changed and the Germans had recovered from the initial Canadian success – which was the situation into which Private Kennedy reported *to duty* on or about that June 16, 1917.

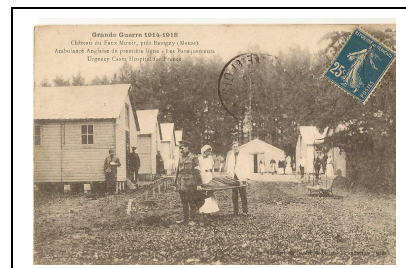
* * * * *

At the time of Private Kennedy's arrival* the 25th Battalion was in reserve, resting and training – if that is not a contradiction – in the vicinity of the community of Gouy-Servins, in the mining area of the city of Lens.

**In fact, he was likely one of the one-hundred forty-seven reinforcements which were recorded in the War Diary as having arrived on June 15.*

Less than a month after reporting to the 25th Battalion, on July 10, Private Kennedy was in need of medical attention for an unspecified complaint and was sent to an unidentified field ambulance. The problem was apparently none too serious as he returned *to duty* with his unit only two days later.

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



Having then spent the entire month of June in the *Rest Area*, on July 1 the 25th Battalion was ordered to move forward once more and by the 3rd it had relieved two battalions of the British Leicestershire Regiment in the forward area.

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



The Canadians were to be a major contributor to this effort.

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

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



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

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



(Right above: *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.* – photograph from 1914)

(continued)

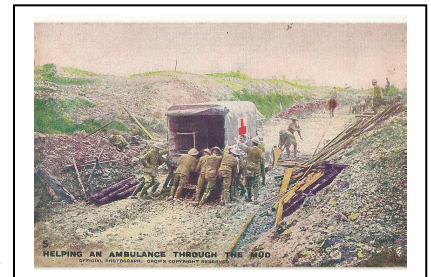
Objectives were limited and had for the most part been achieved by the end of August 15. Due to the dominance of *Hill 70* over the entire area, it was expected that the Germans would endeavour to retrieve it and so it proved; on the 16th several strong counter-attacks were launched against the Canadian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

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

Of course, the Germans were not the only ones to incur casualties: by the time that the 25th Battalion retired on August 17, the unit had recorded some one-hundred fifty *killed, wounded and missing in action*. The Battalion was nevertheless soon back in the forward area, to be relieved on the 22nd by which time a further fifty *killed, wounded and missing* had been added to the preceding total. What Private Kennedy's role had been during either engagement appears not to be recorded.

After weeks of relatively little infantry activity during the early days of that summer of 1917, this attack on August 15 in the area of *Hill 70* and the city of Lens had been intended to be the precursor of weeks of an entire campaign spear-headed by the Canadians.

(Right: *transferring sick and wounded from a field ambulance to the rear through the mud by motorized ambulance and man-power – from a vintage post-card*)



However, the British offensive further to the north was proceeding less well than intended and the Canadians were to be needed there. Activities in the *Lens Sector* were suspended in early September and for a short period, the 25th Battalion was to revert to the rigours and routines of life in the trenches*.

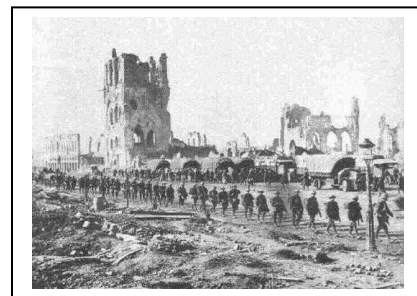
**During the Great War, British and Empire (later Commonwealth) battalions had their time more or less equally divided into three postings: in theory a week was to be spent in the front lines, at times little more than a few metres separating them from the enemy forward positions; a second week was then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



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

(Right above: *A photograph of Canadian troops in support positions somewhere on the Somme in the autumn of the that year 1916, by that time equipped with steel helmets and the less visible, British-made, Lee-Enfield rifles – from Illustration*)

It was not until the final weeks of October that the Canadians became embroiled in the offensive to the north-east of Ypres. Officially named 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 one of the British Army's objectives.



(Right: *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*)

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

The strength of the 25th Battalion on that November 5 was reported as being twenty-one officers and five-hundred seventy-six other ranks, perhaps just over fifty per cent of regulation battalion numbers.



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

During the three days that they were to spend at the front at this time, the casualties sustained by the 25th Battalion were, by comparison to others, fairly light: seventeen *killed in action*, sixty-seven *wounded* and six *missing in action*.



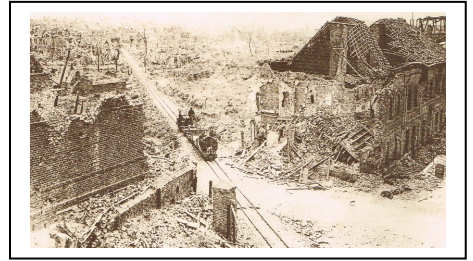
(Right: *The Canadian Memorial which today stands on Passchendaele Ridge – photograph from 2015*)

In the late evening of November 8 the 25th Battalion was withdrawn from the area of the front line, westwards of Ypres itself. Days later, on or about December 12, the unit was moved out of Belgium and further south again, to Camblain l'Abb , not many kilometres distant to the west of Vimy, and in much the same area where Private Kennedy had first reported to the Battalion five months previously.

The winter of 1917-1918 was spent in the same area; little if any confrontational military activity for that period is reported in the Battalion War Diary. Then on March 23 the unit was moved further south to the area of St-Aubin on the outskirts of Arras, arriving there on the 24th. The Battalion was '*standing-by*', ready to move on short notice, owing to expectations of an attack by the enemy.

(continued)

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, they delivered a massive attack, Operation 'Michael', launched on March 21. The main blow fell at the Somme in the area of, and also just to the south of, the battlefields of 1916, and it fell for the most part on the British and Commonwealth troops there.

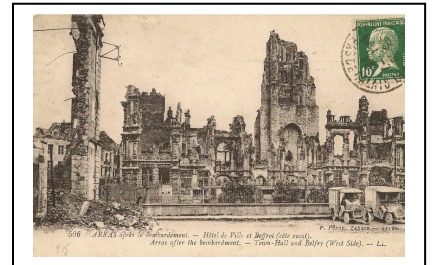


(Right above: While the Germans did not attack Lens in the spring of 1918, they did bombard it heavily during the time of their offensive in order to keep the British uncertain about their intentions and to oblige them to retain troops in the area. – from Miroir)

The German advance continued for a month, petering out just in front of the city of Amiens. The ultimate failure of the offensive was the 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 petered out at the end of the month.*

The War Diary suggests, however, that the 25th Battalion was not involved in the heaviest of the fighting. Posted mostly near Wailly, just to the south-west of the city of Arras, the majority of the casualties incurred were due – as they often were - to enemy artillery activity rather than to infantry action. By the end of April the Battalion officers appear to have had nothing more important to discuss than whether to adopt the kilt as part of the regimental uniform.



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

It was during the first few days of Operation Michael that, on March 24, while the 25th Battalion was at St. Aubin... "standing-by", ready to move at short notice, owing to expected attack by the enemy (Battalion War Diary)... that Private Kennedy was awarded a first Good Conduct Badge. That expected enemy attack never came to pass.

The Battalion remained in the same area to the south of Arras after the crisis and the months of May, June were spent in relative calm in the area of Neuville-Vitasse; July was likely even calmer as the unit was withdrawn further back to Bellacourt. All that, however, was to change in August.

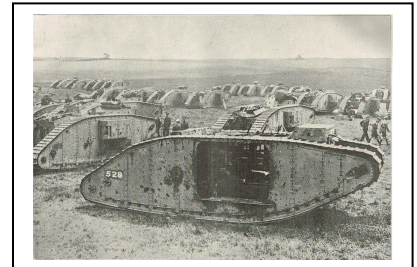
Days before August 8, the intended date of the start of the offensive, the 25th Battalion had been transferred to Bois de Blangy, just to the east of Amiens on the main road from there to St-Quentin, and moved into the trenches. To arrive there it had begun its transfer on foot and by bus from Fosseux, twenty kilometres to the south-west of Arras, on July 30.

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



Its itinerary was to take the 25th Battalion west of the city of Amiens where on August 2 and 3 it had spent the best part of two days in training with tanks, then around to the south before eastward to arrive facing the enemy where he had been stopped in his advance four months earlier. The latter stages of the route had been accomplished on foot – and for the sake of secrecy, during the hours of darkness. The 25th Battalion had arrived at the Bois de Blangy on August 6.

(Right: *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’ – from Illustration*)



At 4.30 in the morning on that August 8, the advance began – *the Hundred Days* as it became known - which was to bring the Great War to a close on November 11.

The Canadians were to move forward some twenty kilometres in the first three days of the offensive.

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



The 25th Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles) War Diary entry for August 9 of 1918 is a fairly detailed account of the events of the day. It reads as follows:

GUILLACOURT Aug. 9th.

Early morning was very quiet. Some slight shelling of “A” Coy’s. position, causing two casualties.

At 9. 15 a.m. verbal orders were received for the Battalion to continue the attack in conjunction with other troops. the 22nd Canadian Battalion being on the left, 2nd Brigade 1st Division on the right, 24th. Battalion being in Support and the 26th. in Reserve. The Battalion rapidly moved to the assembly position – the heights south-east of CAIX – and crossed the British front line, then held by the Canadian 4th Division at 1. p.m. Just before moving off from GUILLACOURT, the Battalion Transport rejoined the Battalion. During the advance “A” Coy. was on the left, “B” Coy. centre, “D” Coy. right, and “C” Coy. in Support.

As the Battalion moved over the ridge in front of CAIX, they were met with a light artillery barrage, and strong artillery machine gun fire.

(continued)

Pushing through this, the British front line was crossed and a party of about 250 Germans, who had been holding the enemy front line, surrendered and were taken prisoners.

(Right: A group of German prisoners, some serving here as stretcher-bearers, being taken to the rear after their capture by Canadian troops: a tank may be seen in the background – from Le Miroir)



The advance continued towards VRELY, the only opposition being large numbers of enemy machine gun posts. While the Battalion was attacking VRELY, some Tanks came up and gave assistance in the taking of the village. While “A” and “B” Coys. were taking VRELY, “D” Coy. had some hard fighting in a wood on the right and all their Officers became casualties. The Coy.-Sergt.-Major however, carried the Company to its objective.

On emerging from VRELY, “A”, “B”, and “C” Coys. met with some opposition in the nature of an enemy Field Battery, which opened fire from a few hundred yards away, Rifle and machine gun fire caused this Battery to retire, with the loss of its Officers and three of its drivers and the advance continued to MEHARICOURT, which was captured with little trouble by 5.00p.m.

On reaching MEHARICOURT, the cavalry pressed through and charged on our right in front of the 8th Canadian Battalion. Finding the enemy in strength and under very heavy machine gun fire, they withdrew and the 8th Battalion had to drop back in order to conform with the troops on their right. This left our right flank exposed and as the 6th Brigade had not been able to keep up with the 22nd Battalion on our left, it was decided to consolidate in front of MEHARICOURT, the 24th Battalion sending up one Company to strengthen our line. Later the 2nd Battalion C.M.G.C., covered the gap on our right flank.

The night passed quietly and the Companies improved the trenches and prepared to resist any counter attack.

Our casualties were – 1 Officer wounded, 6 O.R. killed, and 152 O.R. wounded.

Private Kennedy had been one of those casualties.

The son of Nicholas Kennedy (fisherman – possibly deceased 1891) and Mary Kennedy (née Harrington – possibly deceased 1907) of Carbonear, Newfoundland, he was also brother to Elizabeth, to John, Mary, Anne, Joanne and to Ellen. Private Kennedy was reported as having been *killed in action* on August 9 of 1918.

Patrick Kennedy had enlisted at the *apparent* age of thirty-five years. In fact, it would appear that he was even older: date of birth according to parish records in Carbonear, Newfoundland, August 31, 1876*.

(continued)



****On his attestation paper his birth-date is recorded as September 1, 1892 – September 1; 1876 is the date of his baptism. The records of the two sisters mentioned in his files coincide with the earlier birth-date of 1876. Further confirmation from other sources appears to be lacking.***

(Preceding page: The sacrifice of Private Kennedy* is honoured on the Cenotaph which stands in the community of Carbonear. – photograph from 2010(?))

****The initial J. found on the Cenotaph does not appear in the parish records.***

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

The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to criceadam@yahoo.ca. Last updated – January 27, 2023.



