



Private Joseph Kerby (Number 183051) of the 7th Battalion (1st British Columbia), Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in Arras Road Cemetery, Roelincourt: Grave reference I.B.29.

(Right: The image of the shoulder-flash of the 7th Battalion (1st British Columbia) is from the Wikipedia web-site.)

(continued)



His occupation prior to military service recorded as an engineer's helper working with the Canadian Pacific Railway, Joseph Kerby has left little if any trace in his documentation a propos his movements from the Dominion of Newfoundland to the Canadian province of Alberta. All that is recorded with any certitude is that he was in the city of Calgary during the month of November of 1915.

It was on the 5th day of that month that he enlisted – confirmed on his medical report – underwent the aforementioned implied medical examination and was also attested. On the following day the formalities of his enlistment – and presumably those of his attachment to the 89th Battalion (*Alberta*) of the Canadian Infantry - were brought to a conclusion by the Officer Commanding the unit. On November 6, Lieutenant Colonel W.W. Nasmyth declared – on paper – that... *having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.*

It was to be a further six months before the Battalion was to depart from Canadian soil but where it had trained during that period is not clear although it is recorded to have been mobilized in Calgary*.

**An armoury was to be built in Calgary but its construction, commencing in 1915, was apparently not completed until the year 1917.*

By May 31 the 89th Battalion had made the long journey to Halifax where the thirty-three officers and nine-hundred sixty-nine *other ranks* embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic*. Before the vessel sailed two days later, she had also taken on board the 57th, 88th, 90th, 95th and 99th Battalions of Canadian Infantry, the 1st Draft of the 11th Canadian Mounted Rifles and the Number 7 Siege Battery, surely close on some seven thousand military personnel in all.



(Right above: *The image of HMT Olympic, sister-ship to Britannic – to be sunk in the Mediterranean in November of 1916 – and also of the ill-fated Titanic, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries. Olympic is to the right, HM Hospital Ship Aquitania in the centre: both vessels are at anchor in Mudros Bay during the Gallipoli campaign.*)

It appears to have taken two days for the different units to complete debarkation once *Olympic*, having passed to the northwards of Ireland, docked in the English west-coast port of Liverpool on June 8, the 89th Battalion being one of the first to do so. It likely proceeded from by train to the Canadian military complex of Shorncliffe – the 90th Battalion did – by that time established in the vicinity of the English-Channel town and harbour of Folkestone.



(Right above: *Little remains of Shorncliffe Military Camp today apart from a barracks occupied by Gurkha troops. The Military Cemetery almost alone serves as a reminder of the events of a century ago. – photograph from 1916*)

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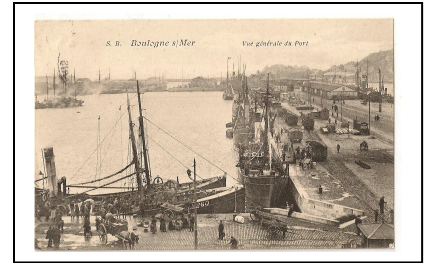
Some eleven weeks following his arrival at Shorncliffe(?), and stationed by that time in the subsidiary camp at Westernhanger, Private Kerby was transferred – on paper - to the nominal roll of the 7th Battalion (*1st British Columbia*), the unit by that time already serving on the Western Front.

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



On the same August 27 he took ship for overseas once more. On this occasion the passage was shorter, the crossing of the English Channel, and he likely embarked in nearby Folkestone to land two hours' sailing-time later, on the French coast opposite, in the port of Boulogne.

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



From there Private Kerby and his draft were transported southwards to the Canadian General Base Depot by that time established in the area of the French port-city of Le Havre, situated on the estuary of the River Seine. Having reported there on August 28, Private Kerby was to remain there for a month, until September 27, before being despatched to join the parent unit of the 7th Battalion, at the time engaged in the *1st Battle of the Somme*.



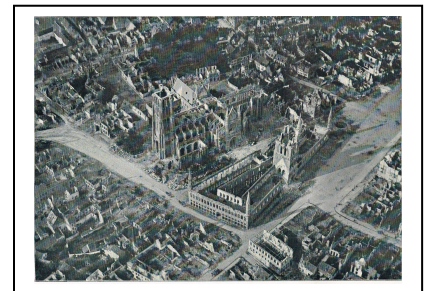
(Right above: *The French port-city of Le Havre at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

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The 7th Battalion (*1st British Columbia*) was one of the four comprising the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade which itself was an element of the 1st Canadian Division*. This formation had been on the Continent since the middle of February of 1915 and had served in the Fleurbaix Sector of Northern France before being transferred to the *Ypres Salient* of Belgium in the middle of April just two months later. In fact it was only on April 14 that the 7th Battalion crossed the frontier into the Kingdom of Belgium.

**The 1st Canadian Division, before the advent of the 2nd Canadian Division, was designated as simply the Canadian Division.*

(Right: *A Belgian aerial photograph showing the devastation of Ypres as early as 1915 – the city is described as 'morte' (dead) - before the arrival of Private Kerby – from Illustration*)



(continued)

Motor busses took the Battalion on that day from the French town of Steenvoorde to Vlamertinghe, only a few kilometres to the west of Ypres. From there the remainder of the transfer was to be made on foot, through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres to positions to the north-east where the unit relieved French troops in the area of Gravenstafel and St-Julien – the latter name soon to be one of the 7th Battalion's first battle honours.

The march across Ypres was perhaps a portent of things to come: casualties on that day were four *killed in action* and ten *wounded*. But at least the 7th Battalion was to have time for the events soon to follow: a week later, when the roof fell in, some of the Canadian Division units were still moving into position.

(Right: *Troops being transported to the front-line positions in busses – from Illustration*)



It was on April 22 of 1915 that the Canadians were then *really* to be put to the test.

The 2nd *Battle of Ypres* saw the first use of chlorine gas by the Germans in the *Great War*. Later to become an everyday event, with the advent of protective measures such as advanced masks, gas was to prove no more dangerous than the rest of the military arsenals of the warring nations. But on this first occasion, to troops without means to combat it, the yellow-green cloud of chlorine proved overwhelming.



(Right above: *The very first protection against gas was to urinate on a handkerchief which was then held over the nose and mouth. However, all the armies were soon producing gas-masks, some of the first of which are seen here being tested by Scottish troops. – from either Illustration or Le Miroir*)

(Right: *Entitled: Bombardement d'Ypres, le 5 juillet 1915 – from Illustration*)



The cloud was noticed at five o'clock in the afternoon. In the sector subjected to the most concentrated use of the gas, the French Colonial troops to the Canadian left wavered then broke, leaving the left flank of the Canadians uncovered. The 7th Battalion, having retired into reserve at Ypres, had thus been ordered forward to Gravenstafel, only to join in the general retreat – and at times the chaos – of the following days.

On the 23rd the situation had become relatively stable, the positions in the vicinity of Sint-Juliaan held until the morning of the 24th when a further retirement had become necessary. At times there had been gaps in the defensive lines but, fortunately, either the Germans were unaware of how close they were to a breakthrough, or they did not have the means to exploit the situation.

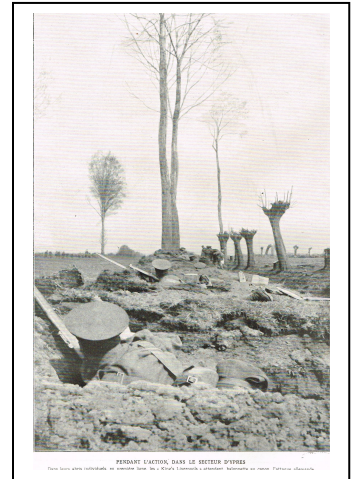
And then the Canadians closed the gaps.

(Right: *The Memorial to the 1st Canadian Division – the Brooding Soldier – stands just to the south of the village of Langemark (at the time Langemarck) – at the Vancouver Crossroads - where the Canadians withstood the German attack – abetted by gas – at Ypres (today Ieper) in April of 1915. – photograph from 2010)*



As had many other units, the 7th Battalion, had incurred numerous casualties; in the appendices of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade War Diary are to be found the following numbers: *killed in action, seventy-nine; wounded, one-hundred fifty; wounded and missing, twenty-seven; missing in action, three-hundred forty-seven.*

(Right: *Troops – in this instance British – in hastily-dug trenches in the Ypres Salient. These are still the early days of the year as witnessed by the lack of steel helmets which only came into use in the spring and summer of 1916. – from Illustration)*



During the first four days of May the Battalion was... *lying dug in behind hedges in support of FRENCH on YSER CANAL. Heavily shelled...*(War Diary) On May 5 it retired the considerable distance from there to the northern French town of Bailleul where it arrived at three-thirty in the morning.

**The Yser Canal flows through Ypres and to the north of the city; at times during the Great War it became a part of the front line.*

(Right below: *The Yser Canal at a point in the northern outskirts of Ypres almost a century after elements of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade were withdrawn to its western bank from Vlamertinghe – west is to the left – photograph from 2014)*

There followed two weeks of rest – as restful as it ever got during the *Great War* – before the 7th Battalion was ordered south, on or about May 19, further into France, there to fight in offensive actions near places by the names of Festubert and Givenchy. The French were about to undertake a major campaign just further to the south again and had asked for British support to discourage the Germans from re-enforcing the sectors opposite the French front.



There at Festubert a series of attacks and counter-attacks took place in which the British High Command managed to gain three kilometres of ground but also contrived to destroy, by using the unimaginative tactic of the frontal assault, what was left of the British pre-War professional Army. The Canadian Division was also to contribute to the campaign but – not comprising the same numbers of troops – was not to participate to the same extent. It nonetheless suffered extensively.

The 7th Battalion had first entered the line, in reserve dugouts, in the area of Festubert on that May 19. The unit was to remain in the sector until June 22, by that time having participated according to the Battalion War Diary entries, in a single large-scale attack, that of May 24.

The number of casualties for that day were some one-hundred eighty – to add to the fifty due to enemy artillery fire on May 22. Most of the other losses incurred during that entire period were also mostly due to the German guns - as well as his snipers.

(Right: *A one-time officer who served in the Indian Army during the Second World War, pays his respects to those who fell, at the Indian Memorial at Neuve-Chapelle. – photograph from 2010(?)*)



The Canadian Division and Indian troops, the 7th (Meerut) Division* also having been ordered to serve at Festubert, had fared hardly better than the British, each contingent having incurred over two-thousand casualties before the offensive drew to a close.

The French effort – using the same tactics - was likewise a failure but on an even larger scale; it cost them just over one hundred-thousand *killed, wounded and missing*.

**The Indian troops also served – and lost heavily – in other battles in this area in 1915 before being transferred to the Middle East.*

On May 26 the 7th Battalion marched away from Festubert to billets in or near to the community of Essars. The reprieve was to last for but five days, until June 1, when the unit was ordered further south to Givenchy-les-la-Bassée*, a small village not far distant from Festubert. Ordered into the forward trenches on two occasions during that month to support British efforts – and incurring the same sort of casualty numbers due to repeating the same sort of mistakes – on June 22 the 7th Battalion was relieved by troops of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade and retired from the area. Commencing at about the same time, and over a number of days, *all* the units of the Canadian Division were to retire.

**Since the place is oft-times referred to simply as Givenchy it is worthwhile knowing that there are two other Givenchys in the region: Givenchy-le-Noble, to the west of Arras, and Givenchy-en-Gohelle, a village which lies in the shadow of a crest of land which dominates the Douai Plain: Vimy Ridge.*

As a part of that withdrawal from Givenchy, the 7th Battalion was to march to billets in Essars. From there it was to move northwards and into Belgium, to the *Ploegsteert Sector*, just across the frontier.

Having reached the *Ploegsteert Sector* on July 5, there the 7th Battalion remained – as did the entire Canadian Division. In the next months it came to be well-acquainted with the Franco-Belgian area between Armentières in the east – any further east would have been in German-occupied territory – Bailleul in the west, and Messines in the north.

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It was in the vicinity of this last-named community, at Plus Douce Farm, that the unit was now posted.

(Right: *Some of the farmland in the area of Messines, a mine crater from the time of the 1917 British offensive in the foreground – photograph from 2014*)

It was to be almost another year before the 7th Battalion became involved in a further major altercation. Of course, local confrontations – in raids and during patrols - were fought from time to time, and artillery duels and the ever-increasing menace of snipers ensured a constant flow of casualties.



At Messines the unit was once more subject to those everyday routines of trench warfare – perhaps by then quite welcome to those who had just served during the confrontations of April at Ypres and of May-June at Festubert and Givenchy – routines that were to continue for more than eleven months.

During those eleven months the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions made their appearance – in September and December respectively - in the Kingdom of Belgium, the 2nd receiving its baptism of fire in the *Action at the St-Éloi Craters** in April of 1916. Some two months later it was to be the turn of the 3rd Division – at *Mount Sorrel*, a fierce confrontation into which units from the other Canadian Divisions were also to be drawn.

**Not to be confused with the village of St-Éloi, France, to the north-west of Arras, in a sector with which many Canadian troops were to become familiar during 1917 and 1918.*

For the 2nd Division, the first weeks of April were not to be as tranquil as those being experienced during the same period by the personnel of the 7th Battalion and the other units of the Canadian 1st Division.

The *Action at the St. Eloi Craters* officially took place from March 27 until April 17 of that spring of 1916. St. Eloi was a small village some five kilometres to the south of the Belgian city of Ypres and it was here that the British had excavated a number of galleries under the German lines, there to place explosives which they detonated on that March 27.

(Right: *The remains of a construction built at Messines in 1916 by the Germans to counter-act the British tunnellers: they sank twenty-nine wells – one seen here – from which horizontal galleries were excavated to intercept the British tunnels being dug under the German lines. – photograph from 2014*)

After a brief initial success the attack soon bogged down and by April 4 the Canadians were replacing the exhausted British troops. They were to have no more success than had the British, and by the 17th of the month, when the battle was called off, both sides were back where they had been some three weeks previously – and the Canadians had incurred some fifteen-hundred casualties.



(Right: *A purported attack in the aftermath of the exploding of a mine under enemy lines – from Illustration*)

However, as previously noted, this confrontation was a 2nd Division affair and the personnel of the 7th Battalion during that period would likely have been disturbed by only the noise of the German artillery. But their turn was to come: by May 1st the 7th Battalion had been transferred into the *Ypres Salient*.



At the beginning of April, even as the 2nd Canadian Division troops were fighting at St-Éloi, the 1st Canadian Division had been ordered from – and was transferring from - the *Ploegsteert Sector* to the south of Ypres, once more into *the Salient*, to be stationed between the Canadian 2nd Division to its right and the Canadian 3rd Division to its immediate left.

From June 2 to 14 the battle for *Mount Sorrel* and for the area of *Hooge, Railway Dugouts, Sanctuary Wood, Maple Copse* and *Hill 60* between the German Army and the Canadian Corps* was played out. The Canadians had been preparing an attack of their own on the enemy positions which dominated the Canadian trenches when the Germans delivered an offensive, overrunning the forward areas and, in fact, rupturing the Canadian lines, an opportunity which fortunately they never exploited.

(Right below: *Remnants of Canadian trenches dating from 1915-1916 at Sanctuary Wood – photograph from 2010*)

**While it had been the newly-arrived 3rd Canadian Division which had borne the brunt of the German onslaught, the situation was critical enough for other units to be ordered to engage the enemy.*

According to the Battalion War Diary, June 3 was the first occasion on which 7th Battalion personnel were involved in any infantry action, incurring heavy casualties as did most of those units which were engaged in the Canadian counter-strikes of that day. Then later that evening the Battalion was withdrawn.

It was not until June 10 that the unit was ordered to move forward again to take up its positions for the operation which had been planned for the night of the 12th-13th. During that final Canadian counter-attack of June 13 the War Diarist noted merely the following: *Attack carried out successfully on our immediate left after severe bombardment at dawn. All ground regained. Many prisoners captured.*



(Right above: *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*)

(Right below: *Maple Copse Cemetery, adjacent to Hill 60, within the bounds of which lie many Canadians killed during the days of the confrontation at Mount Sorrel – photograph from 2014*)

The subsequent summer period was again quiet, at least in the *Ypres Salient*, although further south in France, important events were occurring, events into which the Canadians Corps was soon to be drawn. In the middle of August the 4th Canadian Division* arrived in the rear area of the Canadian sector prior to taking its place alongside the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions.



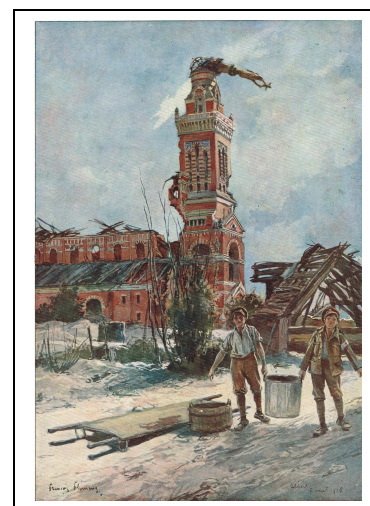
**This was the last such Canadian formation to serve on the Continent. A 5th Division was organized but it was to remain in the United Kingdom, there to provide training for newcomers from home who would then be despatched to the four Divisions serving on the Western Front.*

It was just two days after the August 14th disembarkation of the 4th Canadian Division in Le Havre and its move toward the *Kingdom of Belgium*, that the 7th Battalion began its *withdrawal* from there back into northern France. It was to spend eleven days in an area ten kilometres to the north-west of the large centre of St-Omer, training for things to come, before leaving there on August 27 to march(?) to the railway station at Arques where it entrained for the journey south.

By one-fifteen in the afternoon of the following day, after a journey that had taken some thirteen hours - plus a further short march – it was designated billets in the community of Bonneville. The 7th Battalion had arrived in the French *Département de la Somme* and also in the middle of the battle of the same name.

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

The Battalion was to proceed on foot to the *Brickfield Camp* and then to billets in nearby Albert where it remained from September 2 to 7, moving up into the trenches on that latter date. During its first tour, on September 8 it incurred ... *numerous casualties owing to gap exposing flank. Gap filled and consolidated...*



(Right: *Wounded troops being evacuated in hand-carts from the forward area during the First Battle of the Somme – from Le Miroir or Illustration*)

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 costing the British Army fifty-seven thousand casualties – in the span of only four hours - of which some nineteen-thousand dead.

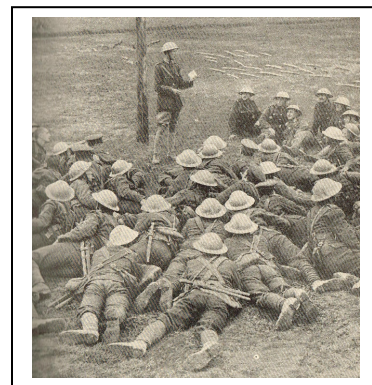


(Right: *The Canadian Memorial which stands by the side of the Albert-Bapaume Road near the village of Courcellette – photograph from 2015*)



On that first day of *First Somme*, all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been troops from the British Isles, those exceptions 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 a place called Beaumont-Hamel.

As the battle had progressed, other troops, from the Empire (*Commonwealth*), had been 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. For most units their first collective major action was to be in the area of the two villages of Flers and Courcellette on September 15 – but this not to be so for the 7th Battalion.



(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*)

It was also the time of an action on September 26 and 27 when the Battalion had acted as reserve for the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade before committing its companies in support during that night. The War Diarist entry of that September 27 reports that the action had been...*almost completely successful*. The unit had nevertheless incurred two-hundred twenty-three casualties during the engagement - leaving one to wonder how many such successes one could afford.

It was about this time of course, that Private Kerby was recorded in his own personal file as having been despatched from the Canadian Base Depot at Le Havre to report to his unit. There is no mention of any incoming re-enforcements for that time in the Battalion War Diary, or indeed from that time until the end of the month of October – which nonetheless does not at all preclude his having arrived at that juncture.

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It would appear that the episodes of September 8 and 26-27 were to be the Battalion's only major engagements during the *1st Battle of the Somme*. It was to serve in the support trenches on one other occasion but by October 17 it was ready to retire to a quieter sector further north. La Vicogne, Autheux, Nieuvellette, Guoy-en-Ternois, Dieval were all stages along the semi-circular route which passed westward then north behind the city of Arras and beyond it until the unit reached the area of Camblain l'Abbé.

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

By November 2 the 7th Battalion once more was back in trenches, on this occasion in the area of Souchez.

The following months were to be spent in the routine of trench life. The Canadian units were all during this time – once having served at *the Somme* - posted in very much the same sectors, between, in the south, Arras and, to the north, Béthune.

(Right above: *The piles of rubble are the remains of the village of Souchez – in the Canadian sector - as it was already in 1915 when it was in French hands. – from Le Miroir*)

The winter of 1916-1917 was one of the everyday grind of life in and out of the trenches. There was to be little if any concerted infantry activity apart from the constant patrolling and the occasional raids by both sides. This latter activity was encouraged by the High Command who felt it to be a morale booster which also kept the troops in the right offensive frame of mind – the troops who were ordered to carry them out in general loathed these operations.

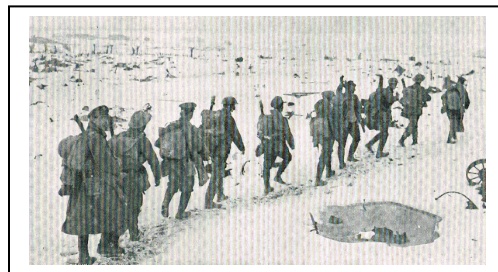
Casualties were low during this period and it was sickness and, perhaps surprisingly, dental work which kept the Canadian medical services busy.

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

During the month of March the 7th Battalion and, indeed, most if not all the infantry battalions and the other units of the Canadian Corps began to organize and to train for the upcoming British offensive.

On April 9 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 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.

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

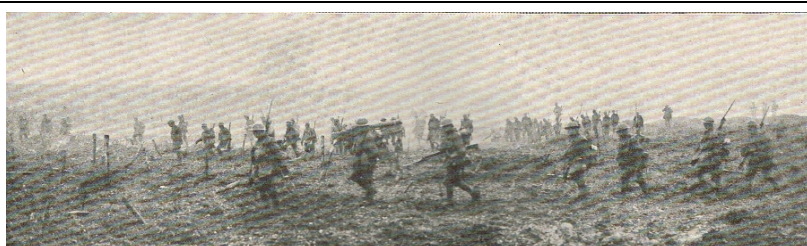


(Preceding page: *The Canadian National Memorial which, since 1936, has stood on Vimy Ridge* – photograph from 2010)

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

The Canadian 3rd and 4th Divisions had been handed responsibility for the Ridge itself; to their immediate right had been the Canadian 2nd Division, attacking in the area of the village of Thélus on the southern slope; and to the right again, the Canadian 1st Division had been ordered to clear the area lower down the slope in the direction of the village of Roclincourt.

(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*)



On April 10 the Canadians finished clearing the area of *Vimy Ridge* of the few remaining pockets of resistance and began to consolidate the area in anticipation of the expected German counter-attacks. There had on that day been the opportunity to advance through the shattered enemy defences – the highly-touted breakthrough – but such a follow-up on the previous day's success had proved impossible. Thus the Germans closed the breach and the conflict once more reverted to one of inertia.

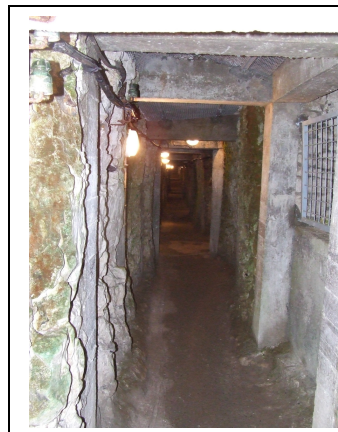
(Right: *The caption which accompanies the photograph says merely that these are Canadian soldiers and their prisoners on the battlefield of Vimy Ridge. – from Illustration*)



The 7th Battalion War Diary entries of the first days of the attack give an overview of the situation*:

9 – 16 Dull in morning, raining. Bn. in conjunction with remainder of Can. Corps and 3rd Army on Right attack and carry enemy positions to a depth of 1500 yards. First objective taken without much heavy fighting although subjected to steady rifle and M.G. fire. In advancing on Final Objective (RED) considerable resistance from enemy strong points met with. RED Objective consolidated by linking up shell holes in front of AVSBURGER WEG.

Casualties during attack were heavy*.

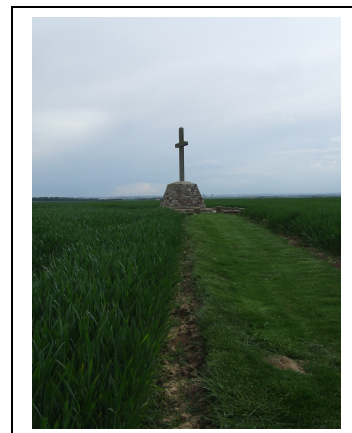


Bn. relieved by 13th C.I. Bn. during night of 15/16th and moved into support along the TONGUE Trench...

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

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

****The appendices in the War Diary show a total of four-hundred fifty-nine casualties, all ranks, for the period of April 9 to 15 (inclusive).***



Tongue Trench is in fact where the 7th Battalion was still posted on April 18. The Battalion War Diary entry for the day reads as follows: *Dull and rainy, very windy. In afternoon, Bn moved back and occupied the Old German Front Line System. Snowstorm in late afternoon.*

(Right: The photograph of Private Kerby is from Ancestry.ca.)

The son of William Wagg Kerby, former fisherman (deceased, possibly 17/3/1911) and of Elizabeth Kerby (née Abbott), he was also brother to Meta-Winnifred, Amelia, William-Abbott*, Charles-Bungay, Sarrah-Hannah, Jemmimima (sic), Annie, Elizabeth and Walter. The place of residence of the family is often documented as Kirby's Cove. (Much of this information is from a March 10, 1902, submission by Jacqueline Coulson on the Genealogy.com web-site.)**



****Cited as Private Kerby's next-of-kin, to whom on June 1, 1916, he had allotted a monthly fifteen dollars from his pay, and also to whom, on July 1, 1916, he had willed his everything. William Abbott Kerby's address at the time of his brother's enlistment was recorded as 632-633, 3rd Avenue West, Calgary.***

*****Perhaps also Selina-Gertrude***

Private Kerby was reported as having been *killed in action* on that April 18, 1917, during the *Battle of Arras*.

Joseph Kerby had enlisted at the apparent age of nineteen: date of birth in Kirby's Cove, Burin, Newfoundland, November 1, 1896 (attestation papers). Ms Coulson, see above, cites 1893 as the year of his birth.

Private Joseph Kerby 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 25, 2023.