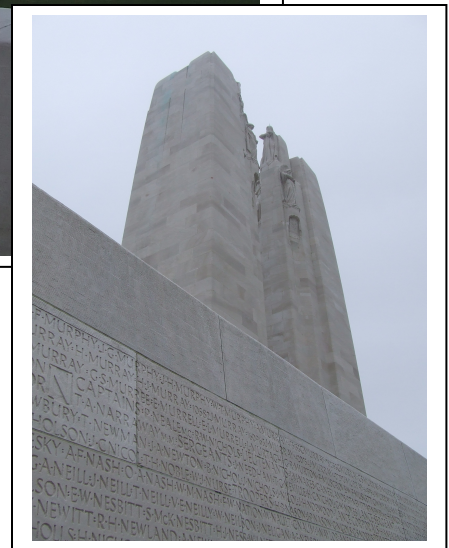




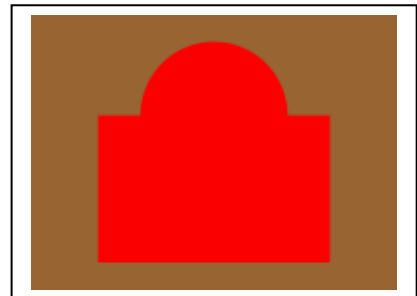
H-MAXINE



Private Harold Maxine (Number 401338) of the 7th Battalion (1st British Columbia), Canadian Expeditionary Force, having no known last resting-place, is commemorated in the stone of the Canadian National Memorial which stands on Vimy Ridge.

(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 that of a labourer, Harold Maxine appears to have left no information whatsoever behind him *a propos* his movement from the Dominion of Newfoundland to the Canadian province of Ontario. All that may be said with any certainty is that he was present in the city of London during the month of August 1915, for that was where and when he enlisted.

Most of the proceedings happened on the same day. On August 8 Harold Maxine presented himself for a medical examination which pronounced him as...*fit for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force*. He was also attested on that day and, according to his first pay records which confirm this date as the day on which he enlisted, he was immediately *taken on strength* by the 33rd Overseas Battalion, recruiting in London at the time.

It was not to be for a further ten weeks, however, that the formalities of his enlistment were to be brought to a conclusion. It was on October 15, 1915, that the Officer Commanding the 33rd Battalion* declared – on paper – that...*H. Maxine...having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.*

**His signature, however, is undiscernible as such.*

Wolseley Barracks had already been established on the outskirts of London, Ontario, for some thirty years by the time of the *Declaration of War* in August of 1914. The Barracks became a recruitment centre and were to be eventually a temporary home to three(?) of the newly-forming Overseas Battalions.

Private Maxine's 33rd Battalion was one of them and it trained there and on the surrounding grounds from the time of its mobilization until it left the area to travel to the United Kingdom. Apparently, musketry was the exception to this rule, as this was undertaken at a site further removed from the bounds of the city.

It was during the five-month period to be spent in training that Private Maxine fell afoul of the 33rd Battalion authorities on two occasions: he is recorded as having been *Absent Without Leave* for a total of five days during the month of November, 1915. No penalty has been recorded, although in instances of this sort while still in Canada, the miscreant usually forfeited his pay for those days.

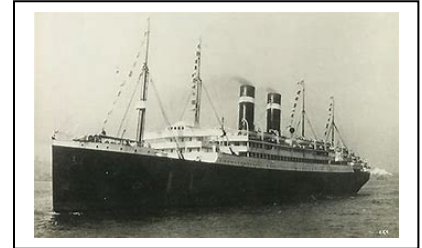
Then in February of 1916 he was recorded as having been deprived of four dollars forty cents: four days' pay – one dollar per diem plus ten cents field allowance. On this occasion we know what the punishment was, but the offence has not been documented – perhaps more absence without permission.

Halifax was the port from which the unit was eventually to sail although several sources appear to disagree on the dates. Although the majority of them cites April 1 of 1916, it is likely that it had been two weeks before, on March 17, that Private Maxine's unit's vessel had cleared Canadian waters.

(continued)

The 33rd Battalion is recorded as having embarked in Halifax onto the SS *Lapland*. The vessel was later, in 1917, to be requisitioned as a troop transport by the British government but in 1916 it had been chartered by the *Cunard Line* and was plying the Liverpool to New York route. Thus civilian passengers were to be crossing the Atlantic with the Canadian military personnel.

(Right: *The image of the steamship Lapland is from the Wikipedia web-site.*)



The 33rd Battalion was not to travel alone: the 45th Battalion of Canadian Infantry, a draft of the 3rd Divisional Signalling Company and the 1st Draft of the 1st Canadian Pioneer Battalion all were to take ship on *Lapland* for passage to the United Kingdom, and all four of these units were to embark on March 13*.

**The ship is next recorded as embarking Canadian troops in Halifax on April 24, 1916, for the Atlantic crossing. Had she sailed from Halifax on April 1 as cited in some records, she would have had to sail Halifax to Liverpool, Liverpool to Halifax? to New-York and finally New-York to Halifax in the space of twenty-three days.*

Lapland docked in Liverpool on March 25 or 26 of 1916.

Curious as it may seem, the Canadian Military establishment to which the 33rd Battalion was then transported appears not to be recorded among Private Maxine's documents – nor on a great number of others. There were four large Canadian complexes in England by this time – *Shorncliffe, Bramshott, Borden* and *Witley* – but to which one the 33rd Battalion was assigned remains unclear.

Private Maxine's Battalion's role in the *Great War* was now about to change. On April 6, 1916, its designation was to change to that of the 33rd Reserve Battalion, CEF, and it was from thereon to serve as a re-enforcement pool, to despatch its personnel – including that of the two 33rd Battalion Reinforcement Drafts which were to arrive from Canada during that June and August – to the Continent to serve with other Canadian units which were already *in situ* on the *Western Front**.

**Before the end of the Great War, Canada was to have despatched overseas just fewer than two-hundred sixty 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 specifically designated as Canadian Reserve Battalions.

(continued)

Even before the arrival of the 2nd Reinforcement Draft of the 133rd Battalion from Canada, the personnel remaining in England from the by-then 33rd Reserve Battalion had been absorbed into the 36th Canadian Overseas Battalion – in its turn to be absorbed by the 3rd Reserve Battalion in January of 1917.

Private Maxine was to remain for two months in England to continue to train. On the night of May 25-26 of 1916 he then crossed the English Channel and on the following day reported *to duty* to the Canadian Base Depot established by that time in the vicinity of the French industrial port-city of Le Havre on the estuary of the River Seine. On the same day, May 26, according to his own files, he was then *taken on strength* by the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion.

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

However, when it was that he was subsequently despatched from Le Havre to join his new unit is not clear. There appear to be no records of either his having left Le Havre to join - or of his reporting *to duty* with - the 1st Battalion of Canadian Infantry. What is more, his pay records document his transfer from the 1st Battalion pay-roll to that of the 7th Battalion (1st *British Columbia*) on June 10.



The Canadian Base Depot War Diary is also recorded in a separate file as having sent him as one of a draft which was to be despatched to join the 7th Battalion on May 26, the day of his arrival at Le Havre*. It may be therefore that an error occurred at the bureaucratic level in naming the Battalion to which he had been attached - but nonetheless it is all confusing.

**A total of only eleven left the Canadian Base Depot on that day.*

And just to complicate matters a little further, the 7th Battalion Diary entries are minimal for this period and record neither re-enforcements or casualties – nor much else. Logically, however – if May 26 was indeed the day of his despatch to the 7th Battalion - Private Maxine and his fellow re-enforcements arrived with that unit at a time when it was serving in the *Ypres Salient*, Belgium, and was in Brigade Reserve at a place behind the lines known as *Railway Dugouts*.

* * * * *

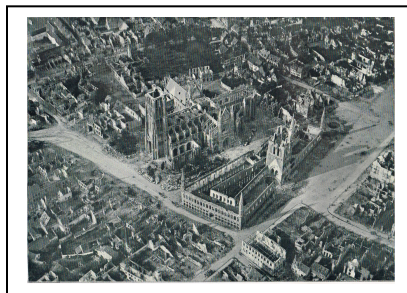
The 7th Battalion (1st *British Columbia*) was one of the four to comprise the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade which itself was an element of the 1st Canadian Division*. This formation had been on the Continent since the middle of February of 1915 and had served in the *Fleurbaix Sector* of Northern France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

(continued)

(Right below: *A Belgian aerial photograph showing the devastation of Ypres as early as 1915 – the city is described as ‘morte’ (dead) – from Illustration*)

Motor busses had transported the Battalion on that day from the French town of Steenvoorde to the Belgian community of 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 had 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 had perhaps been a portent of things to come: casualties on that day had been four *killed in action* and ten *wounded*. But at least the 7th Battalion was to have time to prepare for the events soon to follow: a week later, when the roof fell in, some of the other Canadian Division units were still to be 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* was to see 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 the means to combat it, the yellow-green cloud of chlorine had 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 had been 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 had wavered, then had broken, and had left the left flank of the Canadians uncovered. The 7th Battalion, having been retired into reserve at Ypres, had thus been ordered forward to Gravenstafel, only to join in the general retreat – and at times the general chaos – of the following days.

On April 23rd the situation had become relatively stable and the positions in the vicinity of Sint-Juliaan had held until the morning of the 24th when a further retirement had become necessary.

At times there were to be gaps in the defensive lines but, fortunately, either the Germans had been unaware of how close they were to a breakthrough, or they had not had the means to exploit the situation.

And then the Canadians had closed the gaps.

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 above: *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*)

(Right below: *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 to be... *lying dug in behind hedges in support of FRENCH on YSER CANAL. Heavily shelled...(War Diary)* On May 5 it had retired on foot the considerable distance from there to the northern French town of Bailleul where it had 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 had followed two weeks of rest – as restful as it ever became during the *Great War* – before the 7th Battalion was to be 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 had been 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 were to place in which the British High Command had managed to gain three kilometres of ground but also had contrived to destroy, by having used the unimaginative tactic of the frontal assault, what by then had remained 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 had suffered extensively.

The 7th Battalion had at first entered the line in reserve dugouts in the area of Festubert on the 19th day of May. 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.



(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 number of casualties for that day had been 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 to his snipers.

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 had drawn to a close.

The French effort – through the use of the same tactics - was likewise to be a failure but alas! on an even larger scale; it would cost them just more than 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 had 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 had been ordered further south to Givenchy-les-la-Bassée*, a small village not far distant from Festubert. Having been ordered into the forward trenches on two occasions during that month to support British efforts – although having incurred fewer casualty numbers than at Festubert – on June 22 the 7th Battalion had been relieved by troops of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade and had 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.*

(continued)

As a part of that withdrawal from Givenchy, the 7th Battalion was to march to billets in Essars. From there it would 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 had remained – as had the entire Canadian Division. In the next months it was to become 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.



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

(Right above: *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 then to be almost another year before the 7th Battalion had become involved in a further major altercation. Of course, local confrontations – in the form of raids and while on patrol – were to be fought from time to time, and artillery duels and the ever-increasing menace of snipers had ensured a constant flow of casualties.

At Messines the unit had once more been subject to those everyday routines, rigours and perils of trench warfare – perhaps by then quite welcome to those who had just served during the engagements of April at Ypres and of May-June at Festubert and Givenchy. Those routines for the Canadian Division were to continue for more than eleven months.

During those eleven months the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions had made their appearance – in September and December-January respectively - in the *Kingdom of Belgium* where the 2nd Canadian Division would undergo 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 – by that time serving in the Ypres Salient - at *Mount Sorrel* in the *Ypres Salient*, 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 1st Canadian Division.

The *Action at the St. Eloi Craters* officially took place from March 27 until April 17 of that spring of 1916. St-Éloi 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.



(continued)

(Preceding page: *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 had soon bogged down and by April 4 the Canadians were to be replacing the exhausted British troops. The Canadians had enjoyed no more success than had the British, and by the 17th of the month, when the battle had been called off, both sides were to be back where they had been some three weeks previously – and the Canadians had incurred some fifteen-hundred casualties.



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

However, as previously noted, this confrontation had been a 2nd Canadian 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 for a second time 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 had then been transferring from - the *Ploegsteert Sector* to the south of Ypres, once more into *the Salient*, there to be stationed between the 2nd Canadian Division to its right and the 3rd Canadian Division to its immediate left.

From June 2 to 13 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* had then been played out. The Canadians had been preparing an attack of their own on the enemy positions dominating the Canadian trenches when the Germans had delivered an offensive, and had overrun the forward areas, in fact, having ruptured the Canadian lines, an opportunity which fortunately they had never exploited.

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

**While it had been the newly-formed and 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 to be the first occasion on which many 7th Battalion personnel had been involved in any infantry action, and they had incurred heavy casualties as had most of those other units engaged in the disastrous Canadian counter-strikes of that day. Then, later that evening, the Battalion was withdrawn.



This, as far as can be ascertained from the contradictory documentation in his records, was the time at which Private Maxine's small re-enforcement draft had reported *to duty* with the 7th Battalion at Ypres.

* * * * *

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*)

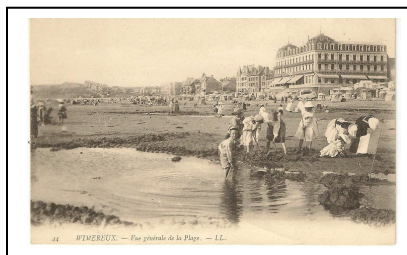


(Right: *Maple Copse Cemetery, adjacent to Hill 60, in which lie many Canadians killed during the days of the confrontation at Mount Sorrel – photograph from 2014*)

Private Maxine was to be a casualty of that June 13 and by the evening of the day had been evacuated from the field. The circumstances of the injury and of the preliminary treatment that he was to undergo are not to be found among his papers. However, his evacuation had taken him as far as the 8th Stationary Hospital in the French coastal town of Wimereux. There he was to receive medical attention for a gun-shot wound to his left arm.

The injury may not have been all that serious: three days later Private Maxine had been transferred to the 1st Convalescent Depot in nearby Boulogne, from where two days later, on June 18, he was discharged from there *to duty* with Base Details at the Canadian Base Depot near Le Havre*.

**Maybe not serious, but it is worth remembering that these were the days before anti-biotics, thus the chances of serious infection – and of the even more-serious consequences – were not to be taken lightly.*



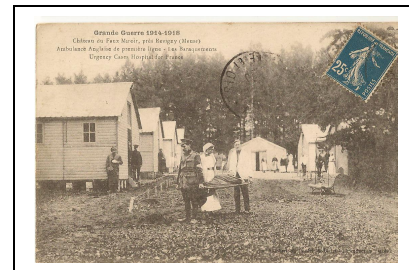
(Right: *The coastal resort town of Wimereux just prior to the Great War, before becoming a major medical complex – from a vintage post-card*)

Only days later again, on June 22, the Base Depot staff classified Private Maxime as *Category A* and therefore as fit for *active service*. Thus he left Le Havre six days on June 28 to re-join his unit.

(continued)

However, once again his documents are incomplete: a single source shows him re-joining his 7th Battalion on June 20, twenty-two days after having left the Base Depot to do so. No further details appear to exist to explain this unlikely event.

On July 26 Private Maxine was in need of further medical attention, on this occasion for a sprained ankle. He was at first sent to the 1st Divisional Rest Station on that date, only to be forwarded two days later, to the 2nd Canadian Field Ambulance, possibly the unit responsible for the Rest Station. He was ordered back to the 1st DRS later again on the same July 28 and remained there until August 4 when he returned to his unit.



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

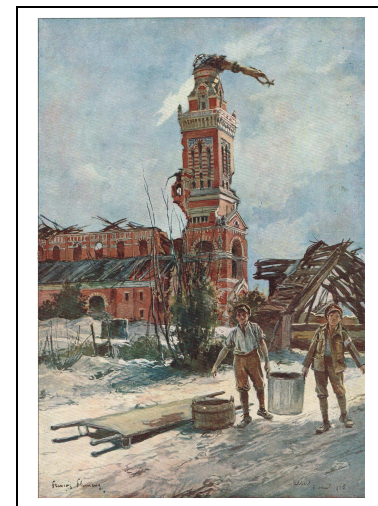
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In the meantime, while Private Maxine’s injuries were receiving the necessary attention, his 7th Battalion was to pass a relatively quiet summer, at least while serving in the *Ypres Salient*. Further to the south in France, however, important and less-quiet events were occurring, events into which the Canadians Corps was soon to be drawn.

Then, in the middle of August the 4th Canadian Division* arrived from the United Kingdom in the rear area of the Canadian sector to take 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 on-or-about 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 then having left 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 had arrived at its designated billets in the community of Bonneville. The 7th Battalion had arrived in the French *Département de la Somme* and also in the midst of the battle of the same name.

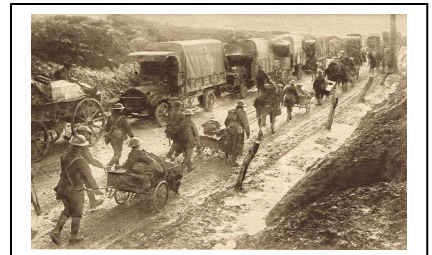
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(Preceding page: *Canadian soldiers at work carrying water in Albert, the already-damaged basilica in the background – from Illustration*)

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 below: *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 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 by the side of the Albert-Bapaume Road near the village of Courcelette – 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 Courcelette on September 15 – but this was not to be so for the 7th Battalion.



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

Once again the War Diarist has been sparing in his entries *a propos* the 7th Battalion's activities and there are no Appendices to provide further information. The pertinent part of the entry for September 7 reads as follows: *Bright and warm. Bn moved to front line and took over from 14th Battalion in an awkward situation.*

(continued)

The awkward situation in which the 14th Battalion was to find itself during the days prior to September 7 and on that day itself is described in this excerpt from the story of Private Edward Fagan of the 14th Battalion: *Ordered to relieve troops of other units in the proximity of Mouquet Farm on September 6 and to physically improve the positions then occupied, the 14th Battalion worked with a greater or lesser degree of success. The relievers incurred heavy hostile shell-fire and infantry attacks and suffered considerable losses before being relieved in turn on September 7. The casualty count – all ranks - for the two days mounted to: forty-five killed in action; one-hundred twenty-one wounded in action; and thirty-three missing in action.*

The relief of the 14th Battalion was the one to be effected by Private Maxine’s unit on September 7.

Excerpt from the 7th Battalion War Diary entry for September 8, 1916 (as seen further above): *Numerous casualties owing to gap exposing flank.*

7th Battalion War Diary complete entry for September 9, 1916: *Fine and warm.*

Casualty report: *“Killed in Action” – While on a reconnaissance patrol, South West of Courcelette he was killed by enemy machine gun fire.*

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

(Right: *The French village of Courcelette, Somme, as seen today the north of the community – photograph from 2017*)

The son of John Cuffe Maxine and of Emily C. Maxine of Bonavista, Newfoundland, and later of 67, Swan Street, Whitney Pier, Sydney, Cape Breton, he was also brother to Ronald – cited as his next-of-kin - for whom no address has been recorded*.

**This and the remainder of his personal information is from his attestation papers. No further information appears to be available elsewhere.*

Private Maxine was reported as having been *killed in action* on September 9 of 1916 in the fighting in the area of *Mouquet Farm* during the *First Battle of the Somme*.

Harold Maxine had enlisted at the *apparent* age on twenty-one years and three months: date of birth at Bonavista, Newfoundland (from attestation papers), April 25, 1894.

Private Harold Maxine 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.