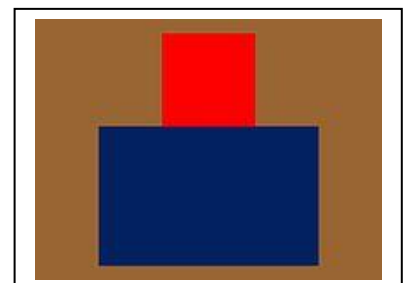




**Private Albert Rose (Number 715950) of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (New Brunswick), Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in Bellacourt Military Cemetery, Rivière: Grave reference II.O.8.**

**(Right: *The image of the shoulder-patch of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (New Brunswick) is from the Wikipedia Web-site.*)**

**(continued)**



His occupations prior to military service recorded as those of *labourer* and *fisherman*, Albert Rose has left behind him little information about his early years in the Conception Bay community of Ochre Pit Cove. However, he was possibly the young sixteen-year old man recorded in the ship's records as travelling on board the SS *Bruce* from Port aux Basques in the Dominion of Newfoundland to North Sydney, Cape Breton, in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. The date was November 12, 1912, and he was on his way to the industrial city of Sydney.

Albert Rose is recorded as having enlisted on February 16, 1916, this being the date on which his pay-records cite the Canadian Army\* first having remunerated him for his services. The same pay-records also document this as having been the day on which he was *taken on strength* by the 106<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*).

*\*Perhaps curiously, the term Canadian Army appears not to have come into official use until the year 1940.*

Private Rose next underwent attestation and a medical examination which found him...*fit for Canadian Over Seas Expeditionary Force*, the former on February 26, the latter three days later, on February 29, both undergone in Pictou, a town some ten kilometres to the north of the community of Westville which he indicated as being his place of residence.

The formalities of enlistment all came to an official conclusion on March 11 when the commanding officer of the 106<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Innes, declared – on paper – that...*Albert Rose...having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.*

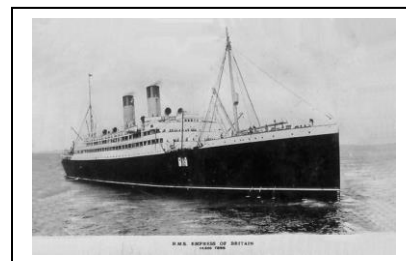
The following four months were to be spent in training. The parent unit of two companies was based in the town of Truro where one private soldier diarist recorded that the training in question during that spring of 1916 was minimal, there being...*no barracks, parade ground or firing range, the men were living in hotels, the YMCA, or at home... training consisted mainly of shovelling snow and marching.*

Two further companies were based one each in Pictou and Springhill, so it is likely that Private Rose was to shovel *his* snow in Pictou, although there appear to be no records to confirm this.

It was on July 15 of 1916 that the 106<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*) embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Empress of Britain* in the harbour at Halifax for passage to the United Kingdom.

Private Rose's unit was not to travel alone: also on board ship were the 5<sup>th</sup> Draft of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, the 93<sup>rd</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> Battalions of Canadian Infantry as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment (*Halifax Rifles*), and the 8<sup>th</sup> Draft of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

(Right: *The photograph of RMS Empress of Britain is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)



Sources differ on the date of the vessel's sailing - it was on either July 15 or 16. But all documents agree that it was on July 25, after an apparently rough voyage, that the *Empress* docked in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool.

From there the 106<sup>th</sup> Battalion was transported by train to *Dibgate Camp*, a subsidiary of the large Canadian military complex of *Shorncliffe*, already being established on the Dover Straits, Kent, in the vicinity of the town and harbour of Folkestone.



(Right: *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*)

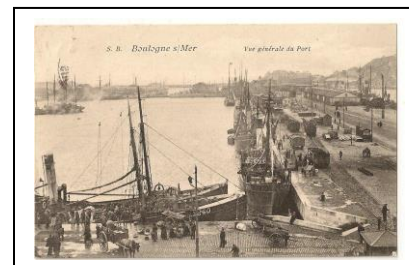
Before the end of the *Great War*, Canada was to despatch overseas two-hundred fifty battalions – although it is true that a number of these units, particularly as the conflict progressed, were below full strength. At the outset, these *Overseas Battalions* all had presumptions of seeing *active service*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

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

Such was to be the case with the 106<sup>th</sup> Battalion: its personnel was eventually to be transferred, primarily to the 40<sup>th</sup> Battalion – *it* to suffer the same fate in January of 1917 when it was absorbed into the 26<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion.



Well before that time, however, Private Pose had already been transferred, on October 4, 1916, to *another* 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, this one already serving on the Continent. He sailed at that time - almost certainly from nearby Folkestone to pass through the French Coastal town of Boulogne – and was then recorded on the following day, October 5, as having reported *to duty* at the Canadian Base Depot at *Rouelles Camp* in the vicinity of the French industrial port-city of Le Havre.



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

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

(continued)



There he awaited despatch for likely for over a week before being ordered to join his new unit in the field. When exactly he left Le Havre is not documented but he apparently reported to the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*) on October 15. At that time the Battalion had just concluded its withdrawal from the *First Battle of the Somme* and on that day was leaving its billets in Barlin, to the north-east of the historic city of Arras, to move forward into the trenches of this new sector.



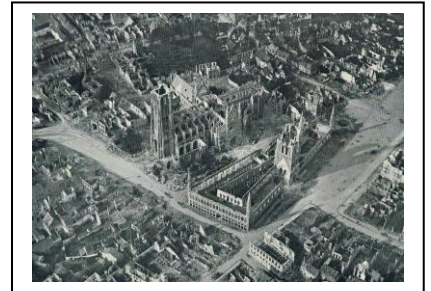
(Right above: *The French port-city of Le Havre at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

It was there on October 15, 1916, that the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diarist wrote in his entry for the day... *Reinforcements joined the Battn. this date as follows: 32\* O.R.*

*\*Perhaps also either 52 or 82 (the number is illegible).*

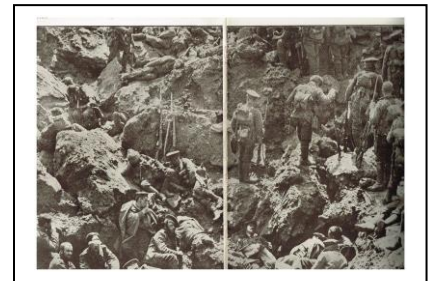
\* \* \* \* \*

The 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (*New Brunswick*) was an element of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, itself a component of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division, and it had been serving in the *Kingdom of Belgium* since September of 1915. After having landed in France, to thereupon be transported northwards, the Division had immediately been posted to a sector in-between the by-then battered city of Ypres and the Franco-Belgian frontier.



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

From March 27 up until and including April 17, 1916 – these the *official* dates - the Battalion was to be involved in the *Action of the St. Eloi Craters*. The craters had been formed when, on that March 27, the British had detonated a series of mines - underground galleries filled with explosives. The explosions had been immediately followed with an assault by British infantry units.



The Canadians were to take over from the British to occupy the *presumed* newly-won territory; however, the damage done to the terrain by the explosions, the putrid weather which was to turn the just-created craters into ponds and the earth into a quagmire, plus a resolute German defence, had greeted the newcomers who would take over from the by-then exhausted British on April 5-6.

(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*)

(continued)

This was to be the first major encounter with the enemy that the Canadian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division would experience and it had likely come as a shock to the new-comers. After some three weeks of fighting in mud and water, at first the British – and then the Canadians who would relieve them – had been held in check by the German defenders and had incurred a heavy casualty list.

It appears from the Battalion War Diary, however, that the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion itself had been only very *marginally* involved. During the period of the Canadian action, the unit was... *standing by, was...in camp, or for five days in a row...Battalion in trenches, Large working parties working on trenches. Weather fine.* Apart from the casualties incurred due to his artillery, the Battalion appears to have had no contact with the enemy.

Then from June 2 to 14 was to be fought the battle for *Mount Sorrel* and for the areas of *Sanctuary Wood, Railway Dugouts, Maple Copse, Hooge* and *Hill 60* between the German Army and the Canadian Corps. The Canadians had, it would seem, been preparing an attack of their own on the enemy positions dominating the Canadian trenches when the Germans had delivered an offensive, had overrun the forward areas and, in fact, had ruptured the Canadian lines, an opportunity which, fortunately, they would never exploit.



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

The British Commander of the Canadian Corps, Sir Julian Byng, reacted – perhaps a little bit too precipitately - by organizing an impromptu counter-attack on the following day, an assault intended to, at a minimum, recapture the lost ground of June 2.



Badly organized, this operation was to prove a horrendous experience: many of the intended attacks were never to go in – those that *had* been delivered had gone in piecemeal and the assaulting troops had been cut to shreds - the enemy had thus remained in the captured positions and the Canadians had been left to count an extremely heavy casualty list.

(Right above: *Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) today contains twenty-four hundred fifty-nine burials and commemorations. – photograph from 2014*)

Thereafter, for ten more days, there had been some desperate fighting, at first having involved mainly units of the newly-arrived Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> Division\*, but soon the critical situation was to draw in troops from other Canadian formations.

*\*Officially coming into service at midnight of December 31, 1915 and January 1 of 1916, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division had trained for a period in the Ploegsteert Sector before, in March and April of 1916, becoming responsible for a south-eastern area of the Ypres Salient.*

(continued)

The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion would be engaged in relieving other battalions during the course of the encounter and it had been heavily shelled on occasion. However, it had not been present in the forward areas during much of the infantry activity and had been withdrawn altogether by the day of the final Canadian counter-attack.

By the time that the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was to be ordered moved up to the front again on June 14, the action at *Mount Sorrel* and its vicinity had been all but over. During the preceding night of June 12-13 the Canadians had once again attacked and, thanks to better organization and a good artillery barrage, had on this second occasion taken back almost all of the lost ground. Both sides had now found themselves back much where they had been just eleven days earlier.



(Right above: *Maple Copse, the scene of heavy fighting in June of 1916, and its cemetery wherein lie numerous Canadians – photograph from 2014*)

(Right: *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: *Hill 60 as it remains a century after the events of 1916 in the area of Mount Sorrel, the village of Hooge, Sanctuary Wood and Maple Copse: It is kept in a preserved state – subject to the whims of Mother Nature – by the Belgian Government. – photograph from 2014*)

Thus, after having played its role at *Mount Sorrel*, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been relieved and had been withdrawn to *Camp "D"* on June 20.



The second half of that following month of July had now been spent at first in *Alberta Camp* and then further back again, at Brigade Reserve in the *Vierstraat Sector*. To compensate for this likely monotonous period, the Battalion was then to be posted back into the forward trenches for twenty-two of the first twenty-four days of August.

Having retired again to *Alberta Camp* near Reninghelst on August 25, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had prepared to leave Belgium. The Regimental War Diarist was to note in his entry of that day: *All ranks in the best of spirits anticipating the move and eager to effect all details in the number of days training, SOMME OPERATIONS.*

The training grounds for the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was to be at Tilques, back over the border in northern France and in the vicinity of the larger centre of St-Omer. It would require three successive days of marching for the unit to reach its billets at Éperlecques by August 28 before then having commenced training on the morrow.



One of the first items on the agenda of August 29 had been the replacement of the Canadian-made *Ross Rifle* by its British counterpart, the short *Lee-Enfield Mark III*.

(Right below: *Canadian troops likely in trenches built for training purposes – they are too prim and proper to be the real thing when compared to the photograph on another page – and here equipped with Short Lee-Enfield Mark III rifles\**, during the late summer or early autumn of 1916 – from *The War Illustrated*)

*\*The Canadian-produced Ross rifle was an excellently-manufactured weapon; its accuracy and range were superior to that of many of its rivals, but on the battlefield it had not proved its worth. In the dirty conditions and when the necessity arose for its repeated use - and using mass-produced ammunition which at times was less than perfect - it jammed, leaving its user defenceless at a critical moment.*



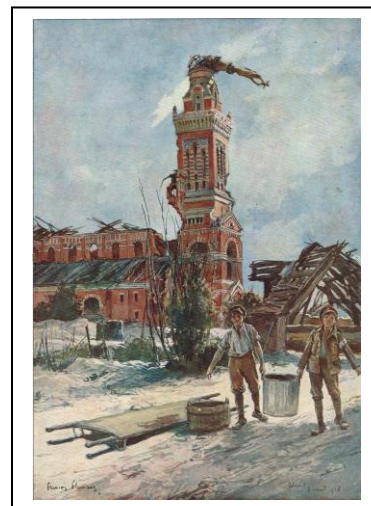
A week later the Battalion had marched to the railway-station in Arcques to entrain for the journey south to Conteville – it was to take over twenty-three hours to complete the hundred-kilometre journey. A day spent resting in billets had been followed by five more on foot *not* resting, a march which would terminate on September 11 at the *Brickfields (la Briqueterie)*, a large military camp in close proximity to the provincial town of Albert.

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

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

On that first day all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been from the British Isles, the exceptions having been the two-hundred men of the Bermuda Rifles serving in the Lincolnshire Regiment, and the eight-hundred personnel of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 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: *The Canadian Memorial which stands to the side of the Albert-Bapaume Road near the village of Courcellette – photograph from 2015*)

The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had arrived in the area four days prior to the attack at Flers-Courcelette – other units had reported there on only the day before – thus those interim days were to be spent in preparation. For the attack of September 15, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been in reserve at the outset and, as such, would not move forward until five o'clock in the afternoon, twelve hours after the initial assault, at which time it had reinforced the efforts of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Battalions.



On the following day, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, according to its War Diary, had been ordered moved to the relative safety of a succession of shell holes, having apparently stayed there all day and...*where the most intense shelling was endured by the battalion throughout this entire day.*



(Right above: *Wounded troops being evacuated in hand-carts from the forward area during the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Somme – from Le Miroir or Illustration*)

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

On the 17<sup>th</sup> the unit was to move once more and had taken up positions in a sunken road, to yet again remain there all day. The only exception was to be 'B' Company which had assisted in an attack delivered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion before it, the Company, had also moved there. The attack in question had...*met with considerable opposition and rifle and machine gun fire was very heavy.* So had been the casualty numbers.

On September 28 the Battalion had been ordered forward once again, on this occasion to play a role in *the Battle of Thiepval Ridge*, more specifically on the right flank of the advance, in the area of the strong German redoubt of *Regina Trench*. The operation had proved to be a further costly failure for the price of one-hundred eighty-two more casualties.



(Right: *Regina Trench Cemetery – Regina Trench was adjacent to Kenora Trench, another daunting German strong-point – and some of the ground on which the Canadians fought during that autumn of 1916 – photograph from 2014*)

On October 3 the unit, having retired from the forward area, was soon to be preparing to disengage from the *First Battle of the Somme*. It had done so on October 10.

The Battalion had retired towards the west, then had turned northwards to pass behind, to the west of, the battered city of Arras. Having then marched again for the following five days, the unit had passed into the new area of Canadian responsibility, the sectors north of Arras as far as the town of Béthune.

(continued)



As seen on a previous page, it was at this time, in the area of Barlin, some thirty kilometres to the north-west of Arras, on October 15, that Private Rose's re-enforcement draft from the Base Depot reported *to duty*.

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



\* \* \* \* \*

By the evening of October 15 the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had completed its relief of a British unit in the *Angres II Sector*, in the area of the city of Lens, and had occupied positions in the front lines. On the next day, the 16<sup>th</sup>, the Battalion War Diarist entered simply: *Battalion in trenches Conditions quiet, weather wet.*

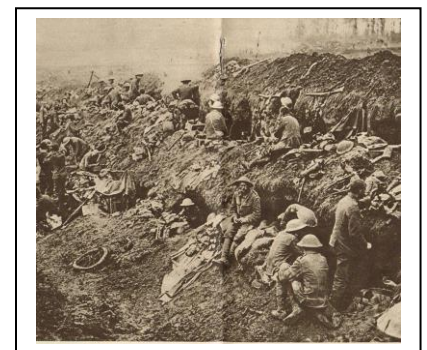
(Right: *This is what was to become of Lens before the Great War ended – from a vintage post-card*)



Those conditions documented by the Battalion War Diarist were not to remain quiet for long: on the morrow the enemy exploded a mine opposite a trench held by 'D' Company. The remainder of the day was to be spent repairing damages and consolidating the defences. There would be no casualties reported on that day but the incident may have reminded some of the troops – perhaps particularly the newcomers - that things could still be bad, even *away from the Somme*.

The next five months or so must have started to seem rather monotonous – and uncomfortable due to a lack of heating fuel – for a great deal of the time, with a few instances of terror thrown in every now and then. For the most part the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was to serve in that same *Angres II Sector*, in theory spending one week in the front line, a second week in the support lines, and a third week in reserve – although, of course, it never worked out exactly that way. And sometimes there was even a bath and a bed.

A unit in reserve could count on everything from a variety of inspections from those higher up the military ladder – and every now and then from a leading politician or a member of a royal family – to being seconded into working-parties or into the Battalion's football team. While in support there were more working-parties, route marches, training exercises on new equipment, inspections from lesser lights on that military ladder, more inspections for trench-foot and other medical problems, and the conveyance of ammunition and the like from the rear to the front.



(Right above: *A photograph of Canadian troops in support positions somewhere on the Somme in the autumn of 1916, only months earlier having been equipped with those steel helmets – from Illustration*)

At the sharp end of the stick, of course, activities became more restricted by the size of one's environment. For one thing, keeping one's head down, if one wished to retain it, meant that all there was to see was the wall of the trench and the sky – this for days on end. If one left the relative safety of the front line positions it was to go on patrol – usually at night – or on a raid – usually at night - or on a wiring-party – usually at night – thus a good night's sleep was not necessarily a common thing – or even a bad night's sleep for that matter.

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

Private Rose was to serve in the *Lens Sector* and others adjacent to it for three months, until January 16 of the New Year, 1917. At that time the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was manning support positions, once again in the *Angres II Sector*, having been posted there on the day before.



(Right above: A carrying-party loading up – one of the duties of troops when not serving in the front lines: The head-strap was an idea adapted from the aboriginal peoples of North America. – from *Le Miroir*)

The Battalion War Diarist has noted that, on that January 16...*Col. McKenzie applies to Brigade to carry out operation at 4.30 p.m. this date, this was granted, and attack\* by selected parties carried out successfully at the above hour...*

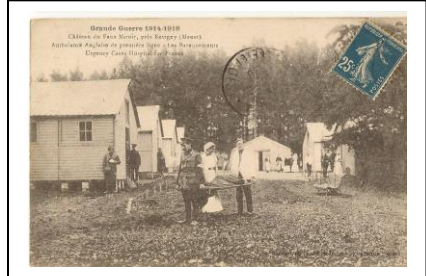
*\*Apparently a raid had been planned for January 15 since as early as January 4 but it had been postponed.*

Casualties during the operation had been relatively light: the War Diarist has recorded twenty-two *all ranks* of which five had been *killed in action*, fifteen *wounded* and two still remained *missing in action*. Private Rose had been one of those wounded, having incurred shrapnel wounds to his left thigh.

\* \* \* \* \*

Private Rose was evacuated from the forward area on the day of his wounding and was admitted into the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance – likely an advanced dressing station run by this unit – before being forwarded on the morrow to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance, posted at the time at the northern French town of Bailleul.

There he was to receive treatment for the next two weeks at which time he was transferred at the end of the month to the 18<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at the coastal town of Camiers – a second source has the 13<sup>th</sup> CCS, unlikely since *it* appears to have been located at more than one-hundred kilometres distant.



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

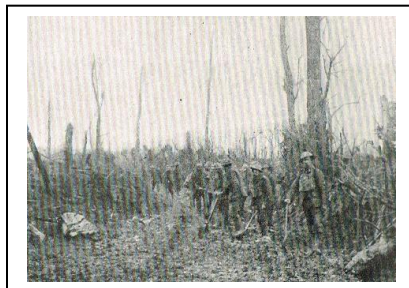
He had contracted a case of bronchitis, a problem which appears to have been dealt with expediently – in those days before anti-biotics - since it appears that Private Rose was on his way again – apparently by ambulance train - to the 6<sup>th</sup> Convalescent Depot at Étaples, having spent a bare forty-eight hours – from February 1 to 3 – in hospital at Camiers.

(Right below: *the railway station at Dannes-Camiers through which thousands of sick, wounded and convalescent military personnel passed during the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

Two days later again, on February 5, Private Rose was discharged from convalescence and sent to the Details Camp at the Canadian Base Depot at Rouelles Camp, Le Havre, where on February 9, he was pronounced as being again...*fit for active service*. Thus he was despatched on February 21 to report to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Entrenching Battalion\*, at the time working in the area of the community of Hersin.



*\*These units, as the name suggests, were employed in defence construction and other related tasks. They comprised men who not only had at least a fundamental knowledge and experience of such work but who also had the physique to perform it. However these battalions also came to serve as reinforcement pools where men awaiting the opportune moment to join their appointed unit might be gainfully employed for a short period of time.*



(Right above: *Canadian troops from an unspecified unit engaged in road construction, this also being a job to which entrenching battalions were to be assigned. – from Le Miroir or Illustration*)

Private Rose served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Entrenching Battalion for almost five weeks, until March 27, at which time the unit despatched two-hundred forty-two of its temporary charges to various units, of which thirty *other ranks* and a single officer were ordered to the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Grand-Servins. The detachment arrived on that same day.

\* \* \* \* \*

Meanwhile, as Private Rose was receiving medical attention, his comrades-in-arms had remained *in situ* on the Western Front. During this period of the winter of 1916-1917 there was to be little in the way of concerted infantry action by either side. There had been at least one further raid conducted locally by the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and patrols and wiring parties were to be an everyday part of life, but this seems to have been the extent of offensive operations in all that time.



(continued)



**(Preceding page: A carrying-party loading up – one of the duties of troops when not serving in the front lines: The head-strap was an idea adapted from the aboriginal peoples of North America. – from *Le Miroir*)**

Most casualties, relatively few in number, were due to the ever-present enemy artillery fire – some two-thirds of all casualties on the *Western Front* during the *Great War* were caused by gun-fire - but snipers were also a constant danger.

Disease and living conditions as might be expected – particularly the ubiquitous lice and mites, prime source of scabies – were to take an additional toll. But, perhaps surprisingly, it appears to have been dental work that kept the medical services mostly occupied during this time.

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



Then it was spring and the time for the campaigning season to begin. On March 24 the Battalion left Bois des Alleux where it had been spending five days in Brigade Support. It thereupon marched to Grand Servins... *Poor billets...*recorded the War Diarist.

The reason for the move was to undergo special – and in some cases novel – training for an upcoming British attack in the area of Arras. The Canadian Corps was to advance in a sector close to where the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had recently been operating, in an area where the ground sloped upwards to the top of a German-occupied rise which dominated the entire Douai Plain. The crest of the rise in French is called *la crête de Vimy*: in English it is known as *Vimy Ridge*.

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

It was at Grand Servins that Private Rose was to report back *to duty* with the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion on March 27 where there were still to be a further eleven days of that specialized training awaiting him.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was as late as April 8 before Private Rose's Battalion moved forward towards the assembly areas for the attack and not until four o'clock the following morning that the last elements reached their jumping-off posts.

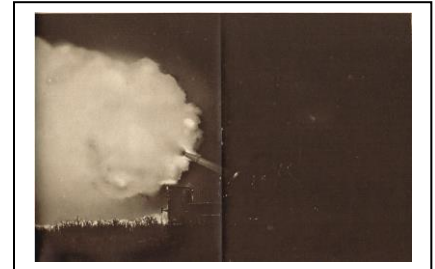
As those final days had passed, the artillery barrage had grown progressively heavier; on April 6, Good Friday, the War Diarist of another battalion described it as...*drums*.

(continued)

By this time, of course, the Germans were surely aware that something was in the offing; their guns in their turn threw retaliatory fire onto the Canadian positions and their aircraft were very busy.

(Right below: *A heavy British artillery piece spews its venom into the middle of the night during the course of the preparatory bombardment before the First Battle of Arras. – from Illustration*)

*\*It should be said that a great deal of the artillery used in the assault on Vimy Ridge was British and that a British Division also participated. Almost fifty per cent of the personnel who had been employed for that day were British, not to mention those whose contribution – such as those who dug the tunnels - allowed for it to happen.*



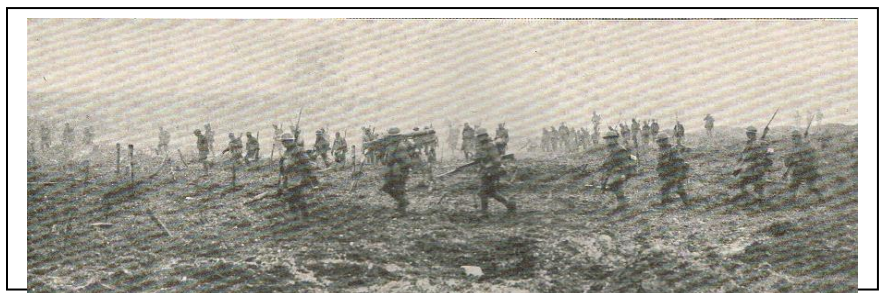
On April 9 the British Army launched an offensive in the area to the north of *the Somme* battlefields; this was to be the so-called *Battle of Arras* intended to support a French effort elsewhere. In terms of the count of casualties, some four thousand per day, it was to be the most expensive operation of the *Great War* for the British, one of the few positive episodes to be 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 of *le Chemin des Dames* was to be yet a further disaster.

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

(Right: *Canadian troops of the 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, equipped – or 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*)



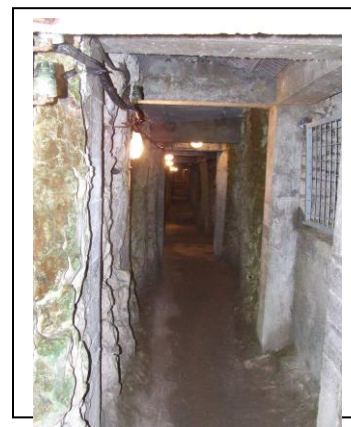
On that April 9, in driving snow, the four Canadian Divisions, on this occasion acting as a single, autonomous entity – there was even a British brigade under 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division command - stormed the slope of *Vimy Ridge*, by the end of the next day having cleared it almost entirely of its German occupants.

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

The Battalion War Diary notes that the objectives of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion were not situated on the *Ridge* itself, the prising of which from the grasp of the Germans had been made the responsibility of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Divisions.

The War Diary also notes that, as was the case with many other units, the advance of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion to the...*Jumping Off Trenches*...was to be made over-ground, not through any of those well-documented tunnels.

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



The objectives of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion – indeed, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division - were in the *Thelus Sector*. Thélus was – and is – a small village further down the slope and to the right-hand side – south in the direction of Arras - of the attack.

The creeping barrage having come down at 5.30 am, the first wave of the assault jumped off... *At Zero plus 32 minutes the light signal (3 white Very lights (flares)) was fired showing that Bn. had reached and occupied their objective. The casualties in the attack were slight and during the rest of the days the Coys. spent the day in clearing the trench and making shelter for the men.* (Excerpt from Battalion War Diary entry of April 9, 1917)

Little further progress was made after the successes of that first day, the terrain proving too difficult for the advance of guns and the necessary equipment - due to the incessant rain as well as to the order...*to consolidate* – and, as usual, the Germans were quick to recover, although no serious attempt was to be made by them to retake *Vimy Ridge*\*. The Battalion remained in the forward area consolidating its position until relieved on April 15 when it retired.



*\*It appears that the Germans may already have been prepared to lose the Ridge, and had readied positions further to the rear. And in any case, as seen above, the Canadians had been ordered not to press any advantage but...to consolidate.*

(Right above: *Canadian sappers, having just laid a narrow-gauge railway line across the battle-field, use it immediately to evacuate the wounded of both sides. This photograph taken on the field at or in the vicinity of Vimy Ridge – from Illustration*)

It had then been an all-too-short ten days, until April 25, before it was ordered forward again, into support positions where, towards the end the month, its personnel was to be employed in digging new trench positions so as to be in a position to support further Canadian attacks, these to go ahead in late April at Arleux-en-Gohelle and later, in early May - twice at Fresnoy- en-Gohelle.

(continued)



These costly operations proceeded – the first a relative success, the second a lot less so - but apparently the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was not to be heavily involved in either. Once again, most of its casualties seem to have been due to enemy artillery action.



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

After the five-week *Battle of Arras* had stuttered to its conclusion – *officially* on May 15 - the remainder of the month of May and most of June were spent by many Canadian units, including the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, withdrawn from the line, the time to be at least partially used for reinforcement and for further re-organization.

On July 1, Dominion Day, following this short reprieve, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was on its way to the forward area and by the following day was in Brigade Reserve, once again in the *Angres II Sector* in the vicinity of the coal-mining centre of Lens. On the 6<sup>th</sup> the unit was once more in – or in the area of - the front lines and by the 20<sup>th</sup> the Battalion War Diarist was recording preparations being made for... *the coming show*.

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 his reserves as well - from this area, it had also ordered operations to take place in the sectors of the front running north-south from Béthune down 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 Le Miroir*)

For the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the end of July and the beginning of August of 1917 were to be a succession of days of training. The Canadian Corps, since *Vimy Ridge*, was from now on always to fight as an autonomous entity; its now-apparent military capability was also to be exploited to a much greater extent than had been the case in earlier days.

One of the primary objectives would be the so-named *Hill 70* in the northern outskirts of Lens. On August 14, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion and other 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division units moved to their assembly areas. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the morrow, the attack was to go in.

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 the slag heaps which date from the mining era of yesteryear.

(continued)

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 that of Lens itself.

(Right: *The monument to commemorate the role of the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the capture of Hill 70 by the Canadians stands some hundred metres or so from its apex, this point just to the left from where the roads intersect. – photograph from 2014*)



(Right: *The portrait of Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie is from Illustration.*)

Objectives were limited and had for the most part been achieved by the end of August 15. Due to the seeming dominance of *Hill 70* over the entire area, it was expected that the Germans would endeavour to retrieve it and so it was to prove; on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

(Right: *A heavy Canadian 220 mm siege gun, hidden from aerial observation under camouflage nets in the Lens Sector, being prepared for action by personnel of the Canadian Garrison Artillery – from Le Miroir*)



As far as the actions of the 26 Battalion at *Hill 70* are concerned, excerpts from Appendix Number 5 of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade War Diary give a general idea: *At 4.25 a.m. on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August the Artillery opened up and the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the Right and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on the Left advanced to the attack, closely followed by the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Battalions respectively. The objective...was the BLUE Line. ...the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Battalions, which were to pass through the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Battalions...would also advance at Zero hour until clear of the German Front Line so as to avoid the enemy barrage. This proved most successful and the casualties...were very light.*

*The Blue Line was captured on scheduled time, namely, at 4.51 a.m.*

*At 5.24 a.m. the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Battalions passed through...and advanced on the GREEN Line which they captured at 5.42 with the exception of the Left Company of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was held up...by Machine Gun fire and Bombers. ...this Company, however, captured their objective by 7.15 a.m. The whole of the GREEN objective was now in our hands...*

At this point the Germans counter-attacked the positions held by the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion but they were driven off.

*The remainder of the day was spent in consolidating the positions gained and clearing the battle-field. The consolidation was carried out...and Machine Guns were placed in Strong Points.*



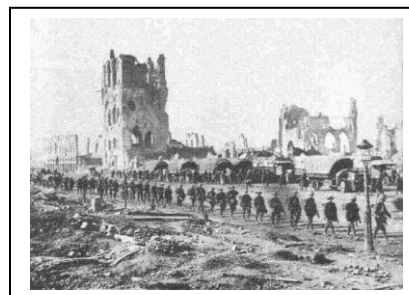
*(Right: Canadians soldiers in the captured rear area of Hill 70 during the days after the battle – from Le Miroir)*

Having repulsed several further German attempts to re-gain the lost ground - those counter-attacks accompanied by heavy bombardments and hostile aeroplane activity on both August 16 and 17 - the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was relieved and retired into the area of the former British front line.

This Canadian-led campaign had apparently been scheduled to continue into September and even longer, but the ongoing British summer offensive in Belgium was proceeding less well than had optimistically been expected and the High Command was looking for reinforcements to make good its by-then exorbitant losses. The Australians and New Zealanders – further to the south than the Canadians - and then the Canadians themselves, all were ordered to prepare to move north; thus the Canadian Corps was obliged to abandon its plans.

There were therefore to be no further major Canadian-inspired offensive actions in the Lens-Béthune sectors and the troops yet again were to settle back into that monotonous but nonetheless at times precarious existence of life in – and behind – the forward area. On most days, according to the Battalion War Diary, it was the artillery which fought it out – but, of course, the infantry was usually the target.

Even though it was known that the Canadians were to be transferred north into Belgium, for the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion there was to be a more-than-nine-week interlude between the action at *Hill 70* and the transfer to its next theatre of operations. During this time the daily grind of life in the trenches was still the rule - with several exceptions when the unit was retired to areas behind the lines, particularly for training, although the War Diary shows that sports were being considered more and more to be a morale booster among the troops.



*(Right above: In this iconic photograph, troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres and past the Cloth Hall on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration)*

It was not until the 24<sup>th</sup> day of that October of 1917 that the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion entrained in or near to the community of Tinques to begin the transfer north into Belgium and once more to serve in the *Ypres Salient* which the unit had left some thirteen months before.





**(Preceding page: *Somewhere, possibly anywhere or almost everywhere, on the battlefield of Passchendaele during the autumn of 1917. – from Illustration*)**

Officially designated as the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign – ongoing since the last day of that July – was to come to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, having adopted that name from a small village on a ridge that was – at least was latterly ostensibly *professed* to have been - one of the British Army's main objectives.

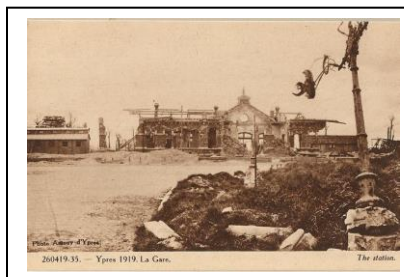
From the time that the Canadians entered the fray, it was they who shouldered a great deal of the burden. For the week of October 26 until November 3 it was to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Divisions which spearheaded the assault, with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions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

**(Right: *The monument to the sacrifice of the Canadians which stands in the outskirts of the re-constructed village of Passchendaele (today Passendale) – photograph from 2010*)**



The unit arrived in the vicinity of the northern French commune of Cæstre on the evening of the same October 24. Although this had been designated as a rest area, the War Diary entries record numerous activities, lectures and training exercises undergone in preparation for the unit's subsequent move to the *Passchendaele Front*.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was on its way again from Cæstre on November 3, boarding a train which crossed the Franco-Belgian Frontier to transport its charges to the ruins of what once had been the railway station at Ypres. The station being – and still is today - just outside the southern ramparts of the city, the Battalion then traversed the remnants of Ypres in a north-easterly direction (as in the photograph of the previous page) to arrive in the vicinity of Potijze.



**(Right above: *The remnants of the railway station just outside the ramparts of Ypres where the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion detrained – the image is from 1919 – from a vintage post-card*)**

On November 4, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion was to move closer to the forward area. Before the unit moved forward, it had drawn supplies and ammunition to carry up to the front line. On the following day it moved forward again, by eleven o'clock in the evening having reached the assembly areas.

Excerpts from Operational Order, Number 180 – issued 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 1917: 1) *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division has been ordered to attack and capture PASSCHENDAELE on “Za” (sic) day.*

2) *The attack will be carried out by the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade on the Right and the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade on the Left: the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade will be in Divisional Reserve...*

**...5) The 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion will assault on a 2 Company front with one Company in Support and one Company in Reserve.**

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

**...9) Consolidation...a) The forward slope should be held by posts in shell holes or short lengths of trench; these posts must be well scattered...in order that the enemy may have no good target for his artillery...**

**b) A main line will be dug just behind the crest of the ridge and so sited as to escape direct observation while denying the crest to the enemy should he succeed in breaking through our advanced posts.**

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

**This main line will also serve as the jumping off line for counter attacks.**

**Excerpts from Appendix 3 of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade War Diary:**

**6) On this occasion...At 6 a.m. on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November the barrage opened and the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion advanced to the attack...**

**The whole of the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade objectives were gained on schedule time, namely, by 6.58 a.m., and consolidation commenced.**

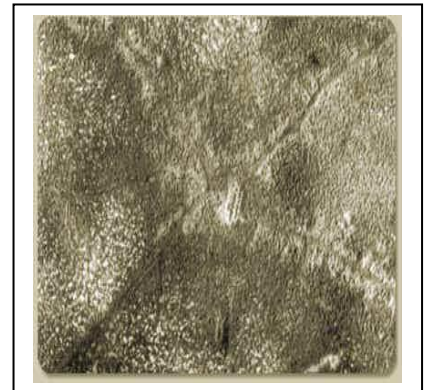
**By 10 a.m. the ground won by the Brigade had been well consolidated...**

**(Right: Just a few hundred metres to the south-west of Passchendaele – and looking in the opposite direction from the site of the Passchendaele monument – this is the ground up which the Canadians fought during those weeks of October and November of 1917. – photograph from 2010)**

**Casualties incurred by the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion during the operation had been forty-two killed in action and two-hundred seven wounded, all ranks.**

**(Right: Canadian troops – not having proper bathing facilities - performing their ablutions in the water collecting in a shell hole at some time during the last month of Passchendaele – from Le Miroir)**

**(continued)**



On November 10 the Battalion retired to Ypres; on the morrow it withdrew further westwards, to Brandhoek; and on November 12 and 13, it moved south, over the Franco-Belgian frontier, back to the area of Cæstre.

Three days later again, the 26<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Battalions moved to the rear area at Mont St-Éloi. There they both remained for the succeeding six days at which time, on November 22, the unit was ordered into support at La Chaudière. There it was to stay until November 28 when relieved by the 27<sup>th</sup> battalion and retired to *Villers Camp*, in the vicinity of Villers-au-Bois.



(Right above and right below: *The village of Mont St-Éloi, adjacent to Écoivres, at an early period of the Great War and again a century later - The ruins of the Abbey St-Éloi – destroyed in 1793 – are visible in both images. Mont St-Éloi is not to be confused with the St-Éloi in Belgium which was mentioned earlier. – from Le Miroir and (colour) from 2016*)

\* \* \* \* \*

It may be a little surprising to learn that in the midst of the great Canadian offensive at *Passchendaele*, and during the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion's transfer to Belgium to play its part in the affair, Private Rose was granted a fourteen-day leave of absence back to the United Kingdom. Surprising, yes – but if all the subsequent dates associated with this period are believed to be correct, then this is so\*. A footnote on his records also assure us that the documentation is valid – *9/11 is correct date...*(for admission into hospital).



*\*And if his leave began, as is recorded, on October 29, then it may be that Private Rose was never to make the journey north into Belgium.*

Where Private Rose was to spend most of this period of leave is not recorded, although it would likely have been, at least in part, London. Nor are there any other details of the first ten of those fourteen days.



(Right: *London – in fact the City of Westminster – in the area of Marble Arch, in or about the year 1913, just prior to the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

Then on November 9 he was admitted into the 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian General Hospital at *Shorncliffe* for a venereal problem, there to receive care until November 18 when he was transferred to another unit of the same centre, for treatment to what was by then also a case of debility, for a further four days.

Next there were two further periods to be spent in Canadian medical institutions: from November 22 until December 27 at the Canadian Convalescent Hospital at Monks Horton, Kent, to be followed by another fifty-nine days at the Canadian Military Hospital, Etchinghill, Lyminge, also in the county of Kent.



Apparently he was by that time cured of his complaint as, upon his release from Etchingill on February 25-26, he was transferred to the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion stationed at Seaford on England's south coast. There a further thirty days were to pass before Private Rose was *taken on strength* once more by the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*) and crossed back to the Continent on *active service*.

Upon his arrival in France on March 29, he reported to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Base Depot\* from where five days afterwards he was ordered to the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp at Callonne-Ricouart, sixty kilometres east of there. He was then despatched to re-join his unit in the field, leaving the CCRC before then reporting to the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the same April 16.

*\*By this time each Canadian Division had a Base Depot to organize its own re-enforcements – thus the 2<sup>nd</sup> Base Depot was responsible for re-enforcements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division. The system was apparently not very satisfactory as, by the spring of 1918, there was once again just a single Canadian Infantry Base Depot.*

\* \* \* \* \*

During that time, there at *Villers Camp*, at the end of November of 1917, the personnel of the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*New Brunswick*) was to be re-introduced to the everyday routines of life behind the front that had been left behind some five weeks before – perhaps after *Passchendaele* those monotonous routines were a welcome reprieve.

(Right below: *Villers Station Cemetery within the bounds of which lie some two-thousand Commonwealth dead of which one-half are Canadian – photograph from 2017*)

Although the officer responsible for the War Diary appears to have neglected it in all but a single short sentence in his journal, the month of December offered something a little different to all the Canadian formations which were serving overseas at the time: the Canadian General Election. Polls for the Army were open from December 4 until 17, and participation, in at least *some* units, was in the ninety per cent range\*.



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

The winter of 1917-1918 was to pass much in the manner of the previous winters of the *Great War*, in stagnation. Any infantry activity tended to be local: ever-present patrols and the occasional raid – still an activity still very much in favour with the British High Command; apparently loathed by those whose duty it was to undertake them. And most casualties were, as usual, still due to the enemy's artillery-fire and to his snipers.

Some of the time that the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion spent in the forward area was in the vicinity of Liévin, to the west of Lens; at other times it was further to the south, in the Neuville St-

Vaast Sector. The days, for the most part, were reported as... *quiet* – the exceptions to the rule being described as... *very quiet*.

Then on March 21, 1918, the first day of spring, 1918, on an eighty-kilometre front to the south of Arras, the Germans blew holes in the British defences and poured through.

Perhaps not many people realize how close the Germans were 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 launched a massive attack, Operation 'Michael', on March 21. The main blow fell at *the Somme* in the area of, and also just to the south of, the battlefields of 1916, and it fell for the most part on the British Fifth Army, particularly where it was serving adjacent to French forces.

(Right below: *While the Germans did not attack Lens – some sources claim this to be a photograph on adjacent Liévin - in the spring of 1918, they bombarded it heavily during the time of their offensive in order to keep the British uncertain about their intentions, obliging them to retain troops there. – from Le 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, German fatigue and 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 Flanders, the area where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was serving with the British 29<sup>th</sup> Division. It also was successful for a while, but petered out at the end of the month.*



(Right below: *British troops on the retreat in Flanders in April of 1918 – from Illustration*)

The War Diary suggests, however, that during this critical time, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion had not been involved in the heaviest, if any, of the fighting – in fact, no Canadian unit had been. Posted mostly in the area of Wailly, just to the south-west of the city of Arras, the majority of the casualties incurred had been due yet again to incessant enemy artillery activity rather than to any infantry action.



The Battalion during the crisis was to remain posted in approximately the same area, to the south-west of Arras. Many other Canadian units had also been ordered to the area, orders and counter-orders ensuring a great deal of movement and, at times, not a little confusion. However, the Canadian Corps was not to send any forces to *the Somme*, the troops having gone no further south than the area of Arras\*.



(continued)

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

*\*The Canadians had been retained in situ because the enemy objectives had not been evident to the British High Command – nor, as the battle progressed, were the Germans apparently to remain faithful to their original plans. The Canadians were held back to forestall any German attempt to break through to the Channel ports and to block a possible enemy advance in the direction of the coal-fields around Béthune.*

However, by the end of the first week in April, the situation to the south, on the *Amiens Front*, while still dangerously uncertain, had been becoming stable enough – the British 3<sup>rd</sup> Army having stopped dead an enemy advance towards Arras – to have allowed for the Canadians to be at least partially withdrawn from the positions that they had occupied to the south and south-west of Arras; nor, when it had come on April 9, does it appear that the enemy northern offensive was to warrant any move by the Canadians in that direction.

The Battalion was to remain in approximately the same area, to the south-west of Arras, even after the crisis, moving at times some few kilometres to Berles-au-Bois and Bretencourt and, when in reserve, a little further to the west again.

Thus a relative calm again descended on the front as the German threat faded – for the enemy the campaign had won a great deal of ground, but nothing of any real military significance on either of the two fronts. Nor was the subsequent calm particularly surprising: both sides were exhausted and needed time to once more re-organize and – less and less feasible in these later years of the war – to re-enforce\*.

*\*It should also be remembered that during this spring-time period, the Germans were also to undertake major offensives against the French.*

The Allies from this point of view were a lot better off than their German adversaries – they had two empires to draw from and the Americans were by now belatedly arriving on the scene\*. An overall Commander-in-Chief had been appointed, Foch, and he was setting about organizing – although some historians find the term a bit flattering - a counter-offensive. Thus the front was to remain quiet – until the second week in August.

*\*The arrival of those troops from the Russian Front was to represent the final substantial reserves available to the German High Command. On the other hand, as seen above, their adversaries would soon see not only a superiority but a supremacy in numbers. It was to be only a matter of time.*

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



In June it was once again *quiet*, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion stationed to the south west of Arras, in the area of the village of Wailly. The unit had been in the front line since the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and was to be relieved on the next day, June 15 – just in time for a semi-final



baseball game\*. But the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion had stirred up things in the adjacent trenches, making a raid on the night of the 13-14: thus Private Rose's Battalion had followed suit, but, perhaps fortuitously, the enemy positions on this occasion had been found to be abandoned.

*\*The result of the baseball game: 11 to 1 against the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Whether Private Rose was a baseball player has not been recorded.*

26<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary entry for June 14, 1918: *Battalion in front line. Situation quiet. 50 all Ranks engaged on Working Party.*

Casualty Report: *Killed in Action – Trenches near Neuville-Vitasse\**

*\*Neuville-Vitasse, however, is some seven kilometres to the east of Wailly – as the proverbial crow flies.*

The son of Absolom (sic) (also known as *John*) Rose, fisherman and of Virtue Rose (née *King*) – to whom as of July 1, 1916, he had allocated a monthly fifteen dollars from his pay and to whom, eight days later, on July 9, 1916, he had willed his everything - of Ochre Pit Cove, Newfoundland, he was also brother to Absolom, to William-King and to Herbert.



(Right: *The photograph of Private Albert Rose is from a web-site entitled – A Short History and Photographic record of 106<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion C.E.F.*)

Private Rose was reported as having been *killed in action* on June 14 of 1918.

Albert Rose had enlisted at the *apparent* age of eighteen years and five months: date of birth at Ochre Pit Cove, Newfoundland, September 17, 1897 (from attestation papers).

(Right: *The family memorial to Private Albert Rose erected by his father, which stands in Ochre Cove United Church Cemetery – photograph from 2011*)



Private Albert Rose 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](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – January 23, 2023.