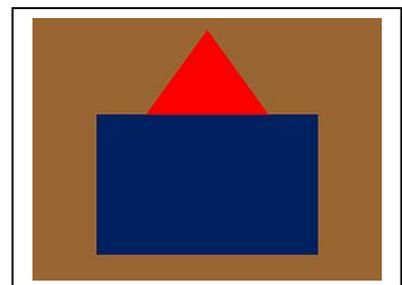




Private Reuben Carpenter (Number 2040204) of the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*), Canadian Infantry, lies in Thelus Military Cemetery: Grave reference, 1.B.1.

(Right: *The image of the shoulder-patch of the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles) is from the Wikipedia Web-site.*)

(continued)



His occupation prior to service recorded as that of a seaman, Reuben Carpenter is recorded as first having set foot in Canada on October 21 of 1911 on his way to Sydney, Cape Breton. On that day he travelled from Port aux Basques in the Dominion of Newfoundland to North Sydney in the Dominion of Canada on board the SS *Ivermore* in the company of his brother Thomas who was returning to the community of Stellarton, Pictou County, Nova Scotia. There he, Thomas, resided and likely already had a job as a miner\*.

*\*Some of this information – taken from original passenger lists – appears to contradict that found in certain other sources (see further below).*

Reuben Carpenter was present in Charlottetown, the capital city of Prince Edward Island, on March 22, 1917, the reason for his being there undocumented. Nevertheless, on that day he not only presented himself for medical examination but also enlisted and attested. He was thereupon *taken on strength* by the 5<sup>th</sup> Siege Artillery Draft for training at the Artillery and Infantry Depot and to await eventual passage overseas.

During this period of waiting, however, it appears that Gunner\* Carpenter was married. Upon enlistment he was recorded as being single; at that time he had also allotted fifteen dollars per month from his pay to his brother Thomas, an allocation which, upon his arrival in England, was transferred to Margaret Mary Purvis Carpenter, by then his wife.

*\*The equivalent of a private soldier in the artillery.*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Siege Artillery Draft embarked in the port of Halifax onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic*, sister-ship to *Britannic* – she having been sunk in 1916 – and of the ill-fated *Titanic*, on April 28 of 1917. The vessel commenced its trans-Atlantic crossing on the following day and docked in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool some nine days later, on May 7.



Gunner Carpenter and his draft were not alone in taking passage on *Olympic* for the United Kingdom. The following units are also recorded as having been on board: the 141<sup>st</sup>, the 153<sup>rd</sup>, 174<sup>th</sup>, 215<sup>th</sup>, 241<sup>st</sup> and 253<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of Canadian Infantry, plus the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the 205<sup>th</sup> Battalion. It is possible that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the Number 8 Siege Battery also made the voyage - which would have made a total of about seven thousand military personnel.

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

From *Olympic*, Gunner Carpenter's draft was transported by train to the Canadian camp established at Shorncliffe, adjacent to the English-Channel town and harbour of Folkestone in the county of Kent.

(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 2016*)



***\*The Canadian Army was to create a large establishment in the area of Folkestone-Dover during the Great War.***



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

Upon arrival at Shorncliffe, Gunner Carpenter was immediately transferred to the Reserve Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, before, eleven days later again, being attached to the Canadian Infantry, on this occasion to the 26<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion, a change which necessitated being transported to Camp Bramshott, another Canadian complex, this one in the southern county of Hampshire.



**Gunner Carpenter thus became Private Carpenter.**

***(Right: Royal Canadian Legion flags amongst others adorn the interior of St. Mary's Church in the English village of Bramshott. – photograph from 2016)***

Some three-and-a-half months later, Private Carpenter was *struck off strength* of the 26<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion and *taken on strength* by the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles) already serving on the Continent. These transfers were, of course, all on paper only and done in preparation for his crossing of the English Channel to France, apparently all of this occurring on the same August 26.

Likely crossing from Southampton to the French port-city of Le Havre, Private Carpenter reported to (the 2<sup>nd</sup>?) Canadian Infantry Base Depot at Étapes on the next day, August 27, 1917. There were four of these Base Depots established on the Continent during this period of the war, all of them in the coastal town of Étapes. Only two of them, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup>, reported receiving drafts arriving from England on this date\*.



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

***\*Only in service for about a year, the four Infantry Base Depots were amalgamated in the spring of 1918. While they operated, each – numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 - appears to have serviced the Canadian Division of the corresponding number.***

Ten days later again, Private Carpenter – one of a re-enforcement draft of forty-eight *other ranks* – was despatched from the Base Depot to seek out the parent unit of the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the field. On September 8 the detachment reported *to duty* at Coucourt where the Battalion, after a difficult month of August, was at the time in reserve.

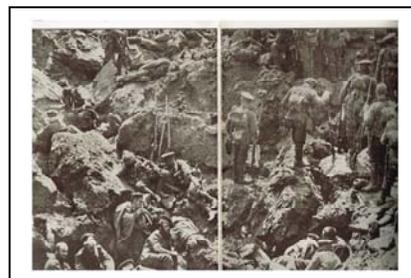
\* \* \* \* \*

**(continued)**

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

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

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



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

Then in June the Battalion had been involved in the fighting in the area of *Hooge, Railway Dugouts, Mount Sorrel, Sanctuary Wood, Hill 60* and *Maple Copse*, all just in *the Salient* to the south-east of the city of Ypres. The Canadian 3<sup>rd</sup> Division had been the main recipient of the enemy's offensive thrust but the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division had played a role sufficiently important – it had held the trenches at Zillebeke for three days - for the name *Mount Sorrel* to become the first battle honour won by the unit during the Great War.



(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*)

From the middle of June up until August 27 of 1916, the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been in reserve well to the rear, so well to the rear, in fact, that it had been deemed safe enough for His Majesty the King and his son the Prince of Wales to pay a visit on August 14.

Some two weeks later, the unit had been withdrawn into northern France to the vicinity of Steenvoorde, then to the village of Mouille. There the following week was spent in becoming familiar with the British Lee-Enfield Mark III rifle which was replacing the Canadian-made Ross rifle, and in training for a Canadian role in the British summer campaign of 1916, an offensive which to that date had not been proceeding exactly to plan.

(continued)

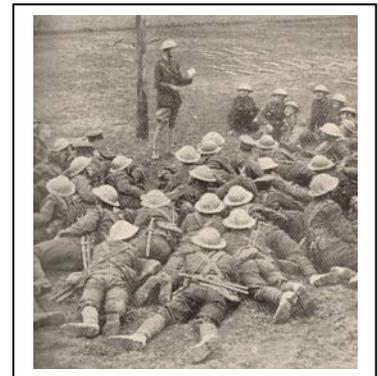
By that September of 1916, the *First Battle of the Somme* had been ongoing for two months. It had begun with the disastrous attack of July 1, an assault which had cost the British Army fifty-seven thousand casualties – in the short space of only four hours - of which some nineteen thousand dead.

On that first day of *1<sup>st</sup> 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 *1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment* which had lost so heavily on that day at Beaumont-Hamel.



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

As the battle had progressed, other troops, from the Empire (*Commonwealth*), were brought in; at first it had been the South African Brigade (July 15), 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 Courcelette.



(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*)

Meanwhile, by the evening of September 10 the unit had reported to the large military camp which had been established at the Brickfields (*La Briqueterie*) in close proximity to the provincial town of Albert.

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

On the morrow the *25<sup>th</sup> Battalion* had been ordered forward into dug-outs in assembly areas. On the following morning again, September 15, the Canadians were to be going to the attack.



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

(continued)

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

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

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



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



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

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

On the night of October 1-2 the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion had retired from *the Battle* and from the area of *the Somme*. It had made its way westwards and then northwards, behind the city of Arras, to the region of the mining centre of Lens.

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



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

The 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion remained in the area and in the trenches of places such as Bully-Grenay, Angres and Bruay for the next four months or so before returning southward to Neuville St-Vaast.

(continued)

One of the neighbouring communities, in German hands at the time, was the village of Vimy, dominated by a lengthy ridge – also occupied by the Germans – to the south-west.

From April 2 until April 7, the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been in intense training on ground that had been re-arranged so as to resemble the terrain that was to be attacked in what was now an obviously imminent offensive. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the unit moved forward – although *not* via those well-known tunnels, kilometres of which had been excavated for reasons of both surprise and safety.

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



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

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

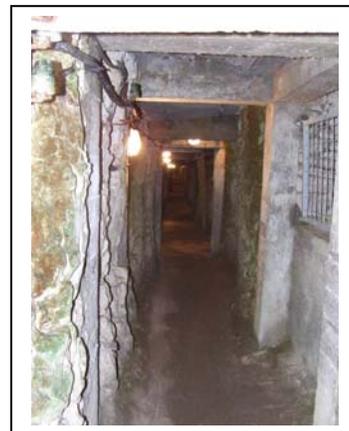
On that April 9, in driving snow, the four Canadian Divisions, for the first time acting as a single, autonomous entity, stormed the slope of Vimy Ridge, by the end of the next day having cleared it almost entirely of its German occupants.

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



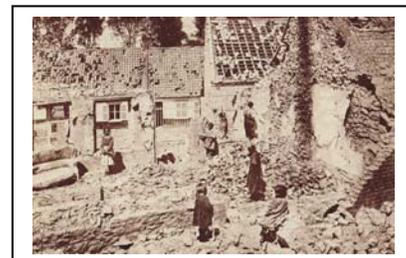
The Canadian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division had not been responsible for the attack on the Ridge itself; the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion on those first two days had been otherwise involved, in the clearing of the community of Thélus, further down the slope and on the right-hand – the southerly - side of the attack.

On May 6 a re-enforcement draft of eighty-eight *other ranks* arrived at the Battalion Details Camp at Mont-St-Éloi while the main body of the unit was serving in Brigade Reserve in the area of Vimy Station. On the following day it moved into a rest area at aux Reitz (*la Targette*) where it remained for the next three days.



(continued)

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



**(Right: Children play in the remnants of the French village of Mont-St-Éloi, shown here already shattered, in the early months of the Great War. – photograph from the 1915 series of Le Miroir)**

The remainder of the relatively short, five-week long, *Battle of Arras* was not to be fought in the manner of the first two days and by the end of those five weeks little else had changed and the Germans had recovered from the initial Canadian success.

During the *Battle of Arras*, the success at Vimy Ridge had been almost the sole exception to the rule\*, the rule being costly engagements more often than not accomplishing little or nothing. Arleux-en-Gohelle on April 28 gained some ground for the Canadian attackers but at great sacrifice. The confrontation at Fresnoy was otherwise; the losses there were also extensive – and the Germans retained the village.

*\*This was so not only for the Canadians. The British and Australians experienced bloody reverses, not to forget the Newfoundland Regiment and its four-hundred eight-seven casualties on April 14 at Monchy-le-Preux.*

After the official conclusion of the five-week *Battle of Arras*, the Canadians of the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been ordered posted not far to the north of where they had been serving, to the mining area of the city of Lens and other communities. There they once more took up the routine of life in the trenches\*.

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



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

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



**(continued)**

**(Preceding page: A Canadian carrying-party – some of the work done by troops when in support and reserve – on the Lens front during the summer of 1917 – from Le Miroir)**

The remainder of May, then June, July, and the first two weeks of August, followed much the above pattern with the Battalion undergoing prolonged periods of training at camps withdrawn well behind the lines. Casualties sustained during this period were mostly due to enemy artillery activity and snipers.

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



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

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



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

**(Right: A former German gun-shelter by then in the hands of the Canadians. – from Le Miroir)**



By August 14, the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion – a total of six-hundred eleven *all ranks* - was back in the forward area, near the mining-pit communities of *St-Pierre* and *St-Edouard* in the north-west and northern outskirts respectively of *Lens* itself. On the 15<sup>th</sup> the unit was involved in the attack on *Hill 70*\*, an action which cost it fifty casualties.

During the next few days the Battalion continued to press, the enemy responding with artillery barrages.

**(Right: This gentle slope rising to the left is, in fact, Hill 70. A monument to the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Infantry stands nearby in tribute. – photograph from 1914)**



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

**(continued)**

By August 18, Battalion strength was reported to be only three-hundred eighty all told, approximately forty per cent of full battalion numbers. It was time to re-enforce and re-organize for the next round\*.

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

Towards the end of the month of August the campaign of local offensives by the Canadians came to a close (see *italics* above) and the Canadian troops were then treated to longer periods in reserve. Indeed, according to its War Diary, the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion spent the entire month of September – the time of Private Carpenter’s arrival - in reserve, much of it in the area of Coucourt where Private Carpenter was one of a draft of forty-eight to report to *duty* on September 8.

It is not recorded if the newcomers arrived in time to participate in any of the Battalion sports ongoing on that day.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion returned to the front lines in the Neuville St-Vaast sector only on October 5 and remained there until October 11, each of these days quiet and recorded as *normal* by the War Diarist. The unit then withdrew to *support* where it remained for a further five days.

However, it was not to be long after that before the Canadians were ordered to join the ongoing battle in Belgium, to the north-east of Ypres. Officially designated the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, taking that name from a small village on a ridge that was ostensibly one of the British Army’s objectives.



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

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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Divisions who 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 true with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division finally entering the remnants of Passchendaele itself.

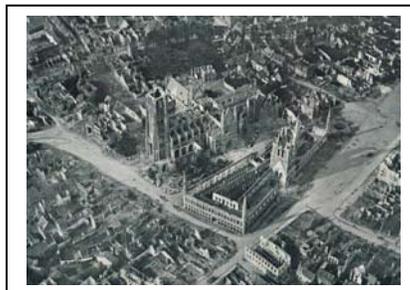
(Right above: *Somewhere, perhaps anywhere, on the battlefield of Passchendaele during the autumn of 1917. – from Illustration*)

(continued)

From the support trenches the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion retired on October 16 to *Winnipeg Camp* at Bois des Alleux, close to the ruins of the village of St-Éloi – the one in France. Having then remained in the area until the 25<sup>th</sup> of that month the unit took a train and travelled northward to Borre some three kilometres east of the larger centre of Hazebrouck.

It was to be yet another six days before the unit was to move closer to the *Passchendaele* theatre, taking a train to Vlamertingue, just west of the ruins of the Belgian medieval city of Ypres.

(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*)



By the late evening of November 5, the twenty-one officers and five-hundred seventy-six *other ranks* of the Battalion had moved forward to the front-line area to the east of Ypres and for the most part were sheltering in the funk holes – individual dug-outs – which they had been obliged to burrow. On the evening 7<sup>th</sup> the unit moved into the front line itself, spent the next twenty-hours digging trenches, and was then relieved, to move back to Potijze by nine in the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>.



The Battalion War Diarist recorded... *Casualties for total trip - 17 killed, 67 wounded and 6 missing.* Relative to the losses of various other units, the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been very fortunate.

(Right above: *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*)



This, apparently, was the extent of Private Carpenter's involvement in the *Passchendaele* affair. By the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month he was back in the area of Vlamertingue, far removed from the front and, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, at *Winnipeg Camp* near Mont St-Éloi once more, some hundred kilometres to the south.

(Right above and right: *The village of Mont St-Éloi – again - at an early period of the Great War and a century later - The ruins of the Abbey St-Éloi – destroyed in 1783 – are visible in both images. – from Le Miroir and (colour) from 2016*)



For the following two months the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion once more followed the routine of life in – and out of – the trenches, the last ten days of December and first two weeks of January being spent in reserve at Enquin-les-Mines not far removed from the town of St-Omer.

(continued)

(Right below: *Canadian soldiers in reserve stand in front of a temporary theatre and peruse the attractions of an upcoming concert. – from Le Miroir*)

Just the same, the month of December had offered *something* a little different to all the Canadian formations which were serving overseas at the time: the General Election. Polls for the Army were open from December 4 until 17, and if the number of soldiers who voted from the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion\* was as high as those of other units recorded in their war diary, it was in the ninety per cent range.



\* *The Battalion War Diarist appears not to have seen fit to record this event.*

Apparently, at the same time, the troops were given the opportunity to subscribe to Canada's Victory War Loan. Thus the troops were not only ordered to fight the War but they were encouraged to pay for it as well.

On January 16 the unit began to wend its way to the front-line sector of the Méricourt Road-La Targette area, to take over support positions there on January 19.

Five days later, Private Carpenter and the Battalion moved into the forward trenches in the Méricourt sector, the Battalion War Diarist regularly describing this entire period as *normal* and *quiet*.

However, on January 26 the Battalion War Diarist also typed the following entry: *A few gas shells fell around the QUARRIES about 7.15 p.m. Weather fine but misty. Lieut. D.A. LIVINGSTONE and patrol of Battalion Scouts reconnoitred enemy post at T.18.a.7.3. Enemy sentry observed within the wire. Too light for scouting. Casualties – 1 O.R. killed.*

(Right: *The sacrifice of Private Reuben Carpenter is honoured on the War Memorial in Little Catalina's United Church grounds. – photograph from 2010(?)*)



The son of Joseph Carpenter of Catalina\*, Newfoundland, and husband of Margaret Mary Purvis Carpenter, by this time a resident of the town of Windsor, Hants County, Nova Scotia, he was also brother to at least Thomas of Stellarton, Nova Scotia. Private Carpenter was recorded as having been *killed in action* on January 26, 1918.

Reuben Carpenter is recorded as having enlisted at the age of twenty-eight years: apparent date of birth, March 17, 1889.

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

(continued on following page)



***\*His parents were almost certainly Joseph Carpenter, fisherman, and Elizabeth Carpenter (née Dalton (also Daulton)) of Little Catalina, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, they being the only couple Carpenter named in the Catalina and Little Catalina Methodist Baptismal Records.***

***Here the contradictions begin: the Methodist Parish Records document children George-Dalton (born 1878), Mary-Marie (1882), Thomas (1886) and Philip (1888) – there is no Reuben; however, the Ancestry.ca site names Melina (1881), George (1884), Philip (1883 - this date accompanied by an obituary), Joseph (1885) and Reuben (1887). On both these sets of records the parents are recorded as Joseph Carpenter and Elizabeth Dalton Carpenter of Little Catalina.***

***Reuben Carpenter's enlistment papers cite his place of birth on March 17, 1889, as being Whitby Pier, Cape Breton; yet, on the passenger list of 1911, he states this to be his first journey to Canada.***

***On his attestation papers his declared birthdate of March 17, 1889, corresponds with neither above set of information.***