
A Research Guide on **World War I**



The Brome County Historical Society



Soldier in his tent. Brome County Historical Society, CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D2-P61.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
HOW CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON A SOLDIER WHO SERVED IN THE WAR?	4
HOW CAN I FIND A SOLDIER'S BURIAL SITE?	8
HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT BATTALIONS AND UNITS?	11
BRIGADIER-GENERAL DENNIS C. DRAPER FONDS: A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF VIMY RIDGE AND A REPORT ON WWI BATTLE	13
HOW DO I FIND INFORMATION ON PHYSICAL MATERIALS SUCH AS WAR MEDALS, WAR TROPHIES, AWARDS, AND OTHER MATERIAL CULTURE?	14
WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON FRANCOPHONE, FRENCH, AND FRENCH-CANADIAN HISTORY IN WWI?	16
HOW CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON NURSES AND WOMEN IN THE WAR?	18
WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOME FRONT?	19
CONTACT US/ FURTHER INFORMATION	20

INTRODUCTION

At the Brome County Historical Society, a rich and extensive history of World War I is available to explore. This research guide's goal is to highlight some of the historical tools that can be used to further understandings of World War I through the lens of Brome County's history, as well as providing a foundation of sources to enhance research. This guide will provide instructions on how to access various sources from the Brome County Historical Society museum and archives as well as various governmental databases, governmental archives, books, and various online sources. Whether the research aims to find information on a family member who served in the war, aims to broaden a research project, or to enhance personal knowledge on the subject, The Brome County Historical Society is pleased to present this guide.

World War I: an overview of a major historic event

By 1914, a relatively calm atmosphere surrounded Canadian military and geopolitical affairs. Canada had just reached 100 years of peace with the United States of America, and as the country was preoccupied with their emergence from a deep recession, militarization and combat was not on Canada's horizon. In Europe however, internal conflict was soon to become a global concern, including Canada in its affairs. June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist while on a visit to Bosnia. The Austro-Hungarian Empire would then direct the blame towards the Serbian government who they believed to be involved in the plot of the assassination. Shortly thereafter, the Austro-Hungarian Empire would declare war on Serbia. The European powers were split into two factions at this time; An alliance between Austria-Hungary and Germany, and an opposing faction of Russia, Great Britain, and France. Great Britain would declare war on Germany, therefore sending Canada to war as well. By 1914, Canada was a self-governing dominion of Great Britain, however it did not control its own foreign affairs and was legally at war when Britain was.

In early 1915, the 1st Canadian Infantry Division would be ready for battle. The remainder of the War would become one of the grandest and deadliest wars ever fought in history. Some 30 nations across all inhabited continents would continue to align themselves with both factions throughout the War. World War I was the first major conflict to use planes in battle. Both the allies and central powers used planes for reconnaissance missions but gradually manufactured fighter planes at high levels. An example of one of these fighter planes used by Germany, the Fokker D.VII, one of few remaining in the world, is displayed at the Brome County Historical Society Museum. Canadians fought in crucial battles and offered invaluable assistance for its allies during the war, such as The Battle of Vimy Ridge, The Battle of Somme, and The Battle of Passchendaele (among many others). By late 1918, the central powers and their allies were at a

disadvantage and becoming weaker. Germany was then forced to sign an armistice thereby ending the war on November 11, 1918. By the end of the war, around 620,000 Canadians would enlist in forces overseas with hundreds of thousands supporting war efforts back home.



HOW CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON A SOLDIER WHO SERVED IN THE WAR?

Library and Archives Canada holds the service files of all Canadians that enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during World War I. The Canadian Expeditionary Force was the name used for the Canadian Army until 1919. The CEF included troops from a wide range of branches including infantry, artillery, medical, chaplains and many others. Through Library and Archives Canada, the public has free access to 622,290 digitized service files through the [Personal Records Database of the First World War](#).

How to search the database

The personal records database allows you to easily search for troops using several methods:

- Last Name
- First Name
- Regimental Number
- Record Group

Simply type the information into the corresponding box, then scroll down to the search button and click on it. This will then bring you to a page of troops with similar results.

What if I am missing some information on the soldier I am trying to find?

The database does not require researchers to have complete information for the soldier they are searching for. You only need to fill out the information you have. Here are some tips for preliminary search on a soldier:

- Name: If you are unsure of the exact name of a soldier, the database allows you to search with a 'wildcard' using an asterisk symbol attached to the name (*). For example, if you know that the nickname or a portion of the soldier's name is Fran, you may type "Fran*" which will yield results of Francois, Frank, Francisco, Francis, Franz, etc.
- Record Group: Most soldiers and various troops would have been a part of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Therefore, if the other groups do not apply to your soldier of interest, uncheck the other boxes to narrow down the search
- Advanced Search: If you are aware of various information such as the soldier's date of birth and enlistment information, you may fill out this information to narrow down the results. Sometimes, the records do not have this information and this may unintentionally limit the search. This feature should therefore only be used when necessary.
- Filter results: On the search results page, you can click on the headings to filter results by dates and chronological regimental numbers, as well as searching key terms in the search bar in the top right corner.

The Knowlton Overseas Club: Using the Brome County archives in your search

At the Brome County Historical Society Archives, over one-hundred letters written by Brome County soldiers during WWI reside in its vault. The letters detail correspondence between soldiers and a group known as The Knowlton Overseas Club. The club was a group of individuals from Brome County who assisted soldiers overseas with money and other material needs. Beyond the important community-based information that can be extracted, the soldiers write about their war experiences. Also of note, the letters contain important biographical information about the soldiers that can help you in accessing personal records as previously mentioned.

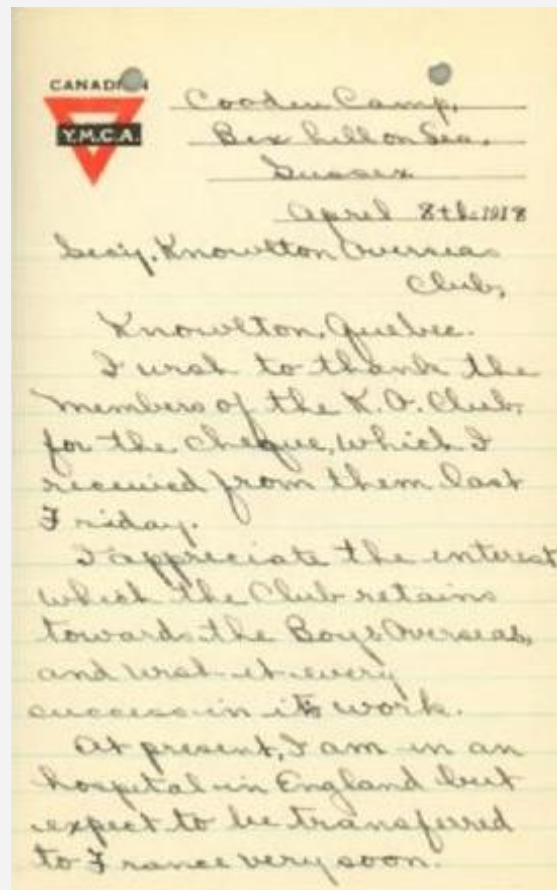
Below is an example of how to find service records using the Knowlton Overseas Club Papers.

Here we have a letter from Private Gilbert E. Dryburgh to the Knowlton Overseas Club dated April 8th, 1918 (CA BCHS BCHS1066-D12-P3).

This letter is a thank you note from Dryburgh to the club. He notes that he is stationed at a hospital in England but will be transferred to France soon.

He ends with the letter with:

Yours sincerely
Pte G.E. Dryburgh
527284
C.A.M.C.



This information varies between the Knowlton Overseas Club letters but gives us an idea on how to extract information for research. Once the information is searched through the Personal Records Database, access to [Pte Gilbert E. Dryburgh's service records](#) are available for view.

Soldiers may have up to one-hundred documents in their file, however these may be most pertinent to your research:

Attestation Papers: These are the most important documents for biographical research. These forms were contracts between would-be soldiers and the Canadian army and thus contain important biographical information. For instance, Dryburgh's attestation papers reveal he was born in Knowlton and worked as an electrician before the War.

Casualty Forms: These forms documented soldiers' movements in the war. If a soldier was transferred to a new unit, was promoted or demoted, hospitalized, discharged, took a leave of absence etc., it was noted on this document. Other important information such as unit numbers and enlistment dates are also given on casualty forms as well.

A.M.C. TRAINING DEP'T No 70 ORIGINAL

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 527284.
Folio. 6

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your surname?	Dryburgh (ANSWERS)
1a. What are your Christian names?	Gilbert Edward
2. What is your present address?	Longueuil, Que.
3. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what County were you born?	Kewtonon, Que.
4. What is the name of your next-of-kin?	James Arthur Dryburgh
4a. What is the address of your next-of-kin?	Longueuil, Que.
5. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?	Father
5a. What is the date of your birth?	7th January 1897
6. What is your Trade or Calling?	Electrician
7. Are you married?	No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?	Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?	No
10. Have you ever served in the Army or Force? <small>(Give particulars of service here.)</small>	No <i>E.D.</i>
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?	Yes
12. Are you willing to be attached to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?	Yes
13. Have you ever been discharged from any Branch of His Majesty's Forces as medically unfit?	No
14. If so, what was the nature of the disability?	-
15. Have you ever offered to serve in any Branch of His Majesty's Forces and been rejected?	Yes, Heavy Siege, 75th C.P.A.S.F.O.
16. If so, what was the reason?	Eyesight.

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Gilbert Edward Dryburgh, do solemnly declare that the above answers were made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, at the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany; should that war last longer than one year; and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date 29 Sept 1917. *Gilbert E. Dryburgh* (Signature of Recruit)
Edmond J. Gauthier (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Gilbert Edward Dryburgh, do make Oath, That I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors; and that I will as in duty bound I shall faithfully observe all the Orders and Instructions of His Father, Crown and Ruler, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all laws of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers sent over to us by His Majesty.

Date 29 Sept 1917. *Gilbert E. Dryburgh* (Signature of Recruit)
Edmond J. Gauthier (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above named was questioned by me and that I made him fully answer to each of the above questions, and he has promised to fulfill his obligations towards the Army Act.

The above questions were thus read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands his question, and that he fulfills to the best of his power each and every duty entailed on him, and the said Recruit has made and signed the Declaration above, upon the before no., at this _____ M.D. No. 4 _____ 191 ____
by _____ (Signature of Magistrate) _____

(Seal of the Registrar General of Canada)

RE-ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT ANY PERSON MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS IS LIABLE FOR A PENALTY OF UP TO TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR FINE.

MONTREAL, QUE.

~~RESTRICTED - MAIL NOTED - DO NOT WRITE~~

M. F. W. H. 15, 17, 19, 21, 23
FORM - 1-32
16 JULY 1939-40-45

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Revised 1st January, 1940.

Unit, Regiment or Corps *C. A. M. C. TRAINING DETPT NO. 4*

Regimental No. *587288* Rank *Private* Name *James Harold Wynard Dybureh.*

Enlisted (a) *29.9.17* Terms of Service (a) *C.E.W. 12/4/18* Service reckons from (a) *29.9.17*

Date of promotion to present rank) Date of appointment to lance rank) Numerical position (a) *1*
)) *pull of N. C. Co.*

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (B) *Clark.*

Date	Form when received	Report of personnel, relatives, trustees, friends, etc., giving active service, as to place in Army Force B, 24, Army Force A, 24, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Force B, 24, Army Force A, 24, or other official documents.
		Embarked <i>Canada</i>		3 FEB 1918	
		Disembarked <i>Canada</i>		16 FEB 1918	
21 FEB 1918	DAMR	TAKEN ON (1918) <i>Canada</i>		3 FEB 1918	<i>52</i>
2.6.18	--	<i>2nd Infy Bn 2nd Div</i>			<i>1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72nd 73rd 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82nd 83rd 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92nd 93rd 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th</i>
7.6.18	came	<i>2nd Infy Bn 2nd Div</i>			<i>1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72nd 73rd 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82nd 83rd 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92nd 93rd 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th</i>
15.10.18	came	<i>2nd Infy Bn 2nd Div</i>			<i>1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72nd 73rd 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82nd 83rd 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92nd 93rd 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th</i>
14/11/18	2nd Div	<i>2nd Infy Bn 2nd Div</i>			<i>1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72nd 73rd 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82nd 83rd 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92nd 93rd 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th</i>

101. In the case of a man who has been killed or is reported dead Section D, Army Form 100, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered on the Casualty, Service Single, and also, when possible, in the National Service Index.

174

Record of Service. Library and Archives
Canada, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166,
Box 2680 - 19

Note on names: Names on military files were often misspelled, therefore using alternative spelling for names may help with finding a soldier.

Note on language: Forms and documents used by the Canadian military during the First World War are almost exclusively in English despite many French-speaking soldiers and units. The military functioned on the British imperial system whose working language was English.

Note on call numbers: Knowing the call number of documents (such as CA BCHS BCHS1066-D12-P3 for the Dryburgh letter) is an important part of retrieving them as it will aid the museum in locating specific documents. Consult the [Township Archives](#) for the collection and call numbers.

Some additional information/assistance:

- [How to read attestation papers and casualty forms](#)
- [List of abbreviations](#) often used in military documents

Suggested readings:

- Brome County Historical Society, Knowlton Overseas Club Correspondence, CA BCHS BCHS1066.
- Wright, Glenn. *Canadians at war, 1914–1919: A Research Guide to War Service Records*, Global Heritage Press, 2010.

HOW CAN I FIND A SOLDIER'S BURIAL SITE?

The War took place in many locations throughout the world. Around 66,000 Canadian soldiers would pay the ultimate sacrifice during the War, and their burials remain honored to this day.

[The Canadian Virtual War Memorial](#) is an online tool by Veterans Affairs Canada that documents the names of Canadian soldiers killed in action since Confederation. Accessing a soldier's memorial profile is similar to searching for a soldier's personal records through the Personal Records Database of the First World War. You may search for first and last names, or use a more advanced search function to include information such as regiments or dates of death. Once again, filling out all sections is not needed.

Also of tremendous use is the database of the [The Commonwealth Graves Commission](#), the organization responsible for war burials from World War I. The Commission operates a free online database similar to The Canadian Virtual War Memorial that records information such as cause and place of death, date burial, date of death, location of grave, next of kin etc. The Commonwealth Graves Commission registers are available through [digitized versions of the primary documents](#). The Commission's Circumstances of Death Registers are also [available online](#).

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
	Lieutenant-Colonel	BAKER	George Harold
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. R.G. FILE NO.	8. REGIMENT
5th Canadian Mounted Rifles	3-6-16	2145-1	Not stated
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY	10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN		
"Died of Wounds"			

Circumstances of Death Registers. Library and Archives Canada, RG150, 1992-93/314, 149. Page 457 of 1072

George H. Baker: The War Grave of a Prominent Brome County Figure

George Harold (Henry) Baker was born in Sweetsburg, Quebec in 1877 to a prominent loyalist family of the Eastern Townships. His father served in the Quebec National Assembly, was a Member of Parliament, and a Senator. George Baker followed in his father's footsteps and was elected as Conservative Member of Parliament for Brome, Quebec in 1911. With the outbreak of World War I, Baker volunteered to serve and would lead the 5th Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles, a unit recruited almost exclusively from the Eastern Townships. On June 2, 1916, Baker was killed in action at the Battle of Mount Sorrel, the only sitting Member of Parliament killed in action in Canadian history. Searching for Lieutenant Colonel George Harold Baker on The Canadian Virtual War Memorial or Commonwealth Graves Commission will tell us some of this information.

Lieutenant Colonel George Harold Baker

June 2, 1916

Sanctuary Wood, Belgium

Military Service

Age: 38
Force: Army
Unit: 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles (Quebec Regiment)

Additional Information

Born: November 4, 1877
Sweetsburg, Québec

Son of the Hon. George Barnard Baker, K.C. (member of the Senate of Canada), and Jane Percival Cowan Baker. Lt.-Col. G. H. Baker was a member of the House of Commons, Canada.

Commemorated on the [Lieutenant-Colonel George Harold Baker Statue](#).

Commemorated on [Page 49](#) of the *First World War Book of Remembrance*. [Request a copy](#) of this page.

Burial Information

Cemetery: [POPERINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY](#)
Belgium

Grave Reference: II. G. 1.

Location: POPERINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY is located 10.5 Km west of Ieper town centre, in the town of Poperinge itself. From Ieper Poperinge is reached via N308. From Ieper town centre the Poperingseweg (N308), is reached via Elverdingsestraat then directly over two small roundabouts in the J. Capronstraat. The Poperingseweg is a continuation of the J. Capronstraat and begins after a prominent railway level crossing. On reaching the town of Poperinge the left hand turning from the N308 leads onto the R33 Poperinge ring road. 1 Km along the N33 lies the right hand turning onto Deken De Bolan. The POPERINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY is located 100 metres from the ring road level with Onze Vrouwedreef on the right hand side of the road.

Here, any soldier searched for will gather similar important results. Simply search for your desired soldier and carefully read the information. Burial information and grave references are easily displayed and will give information on the exact location of the burial. As seen here, George H. Baker is buried at Poperinghe New Military Cemetery in Belgium. The war graves profile may also link to the soldier's memorial profile if they have one.

The Digital Collection:

The database allows submissions of images and documents to be added to a soldier's profile. Each profile will contain different documents such as the headstone and newspaper clippings of Harold Baker.

Suggested Readings:

- David Crane, *Empires of the Dead*, William Collins, 2013.



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT BATTALIONS AND UNITS?

Knowing specific units soldiers served with can provide key information on their role and service in the War. Library and Archives Canada holds official records for each unit in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Finding aids for these records, organised by service branch and unit type, can be accessed through [Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force](#) that provide a brief regimental history as well as relevant primary sources for each unit.

Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force

73rd Battalion

Background Information

Organized in June 1915 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Peers Davidson.

Authorization published in General Order 103a of 15 August 1915.

Recruiting began on 4 September 1915 after 60th Battalion had finished.

Mobilized at Montreal.

Recruited in Montreal, parts of Ontario and Quebec.

Embarked from Halifax 1 April 1916 aboard ADRIATIC.

Disembarked England 9 April 1916.

Strength: 36 officers, 1033 other ranks.

Arrived in France 13 August 1916.

4th Canadian Division.

Withdrawn and replaced by 85th Battalion.

Personnel absorbed by 13th, 42nd and 85th Battalions.

Unit dissolved 16-19 April 1917.

Brass and pipe bands.

Perpetuated by The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.

Sources

In this section, the text in bold is the main topic and the indented part is the archival reference. Use the archival reference to order the document.

War diary, 16 June 1915 - 19 April 1917

RG 9 III-D-3, vol. 4943, folder 451

Aircraft, 17 Feb. - 7 March 1917

RG 9 III-C-3, vol. 4236, folder 1, file 1

Trial of body armour, 12-20 March 1917

RG 9 III-C-3, vol. 4236, folder 1, file 2

Artillery, 3 Feb. - 27 March 1917

RG 9 III-C-3, vol. 4236, folder 1, file 3

Badges, 31 Jan. - 22 Feb. 1917

RG 9 III-C-3, vol. 4236, folder 1, file 4

Billeting, 1 Jan. - 27 March 1917

RG 9 III-C-3, vol. 4236, folder 1, file 5

Reports on bombs and grenades, 25 Feb. - 23 March 1917

RG 9 III-C-3, vol. 4236, folder 1, file 6

Guide to sources relating to the units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Library and Archives Canada, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Documents/infantry%20battalions.pdf>

How do I find a soldier's unit?

The databases of The Personal Records Database of the First World War, Commonwealth Graves Commission, and The Canadian Virtual War Memorial will all display a soldier's unit on their profile. However, if their regimental number is known, you may also manually search for a unit by regimental number through [The Regimental Number List of the CEF](#). Simply look for the range of your desired soldier's regimental number in the "block number" column and match it to the unit on the right side.

Note: Soldiers would be assigned to different units frequently. The best way to track a soldier's multiple units is by using their casualty forms in their personal records.

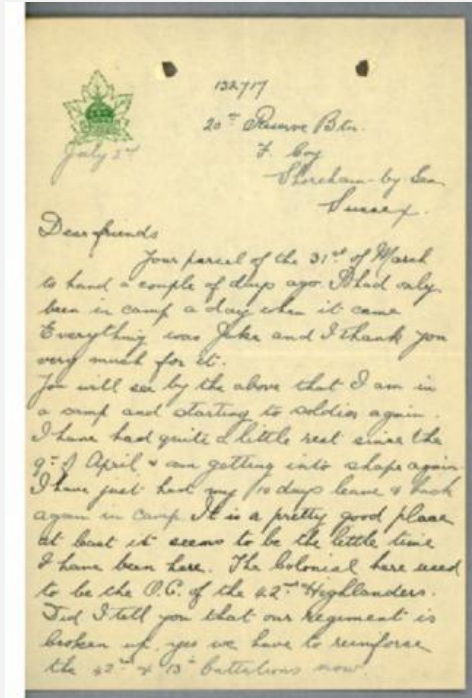
Finding a soldier's unit from primary sources

Letters from the Knowlton Overseas Club Correspondance offer a glimpse into a soldier's unit history.

For instance, this letter from John (Jack) Cheam (CA BCHS BCHS1066-D10-P7) suggests he was a soldier who changed units frequently. Cheam signs this letter *20th Reserve Battalion*, but also further states:

I tell you that our regiment is broken up, yes we have to reinforce the 42nd + 13th battalions now.

Indeed, CEF sources indicate that the 73rd battalion was disbanded, its soldiers assigned to the 20th reserve battalion and then transferred to the 13th and 42nd battalions as noted in Jack's letter.



Suggested Readings:

- Desmond Morton, *When Your Number's Up*, Random House, 1993.
- G.W.L. Nicholson, *Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919*, Queen's Printer, 1964.
- Ian McCollough, *La naissance de l'armée canadienne moderne : le corps canadien durant la Grande Guerre de 1914-1918*, *Guerres mondiales et conflits contemporains*, No. 250 (2), 2013.
- Tim Cook, *At the sharp end: Canadians Fighting the Great War, 1914-1916*, Penguin Canada, 2007 & *Shock troops: Canadians Fighting the Great War, 1917-1918*, Penguin Canada, 2008.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL DENNIS C. DRAPER FONDS: A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF VIMY RIDGE AND A REPORT ON WWI BATTLE

Located in the Brigadier-General Dennis C. Draper fonds in the Brome County Historical Society archives, is a report on the attack of the 1st Canadian Division on Vimy Ridge in April and May of 1917 (CA BCHS BCHS209). This report by General Arthur Currie was written as a training manual for officers such as Draper. Donated by Draper himself, who commanded the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, this report offers an extensive overview of a conflict from the War.

The transcription of the report, with commentary and annotations by Robert Patterson, is also available as an [online publication](#) for easy access.

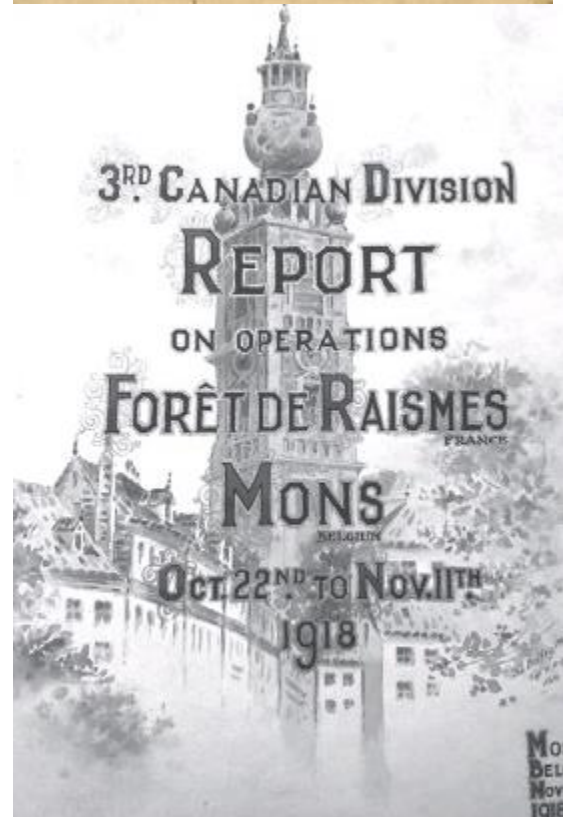
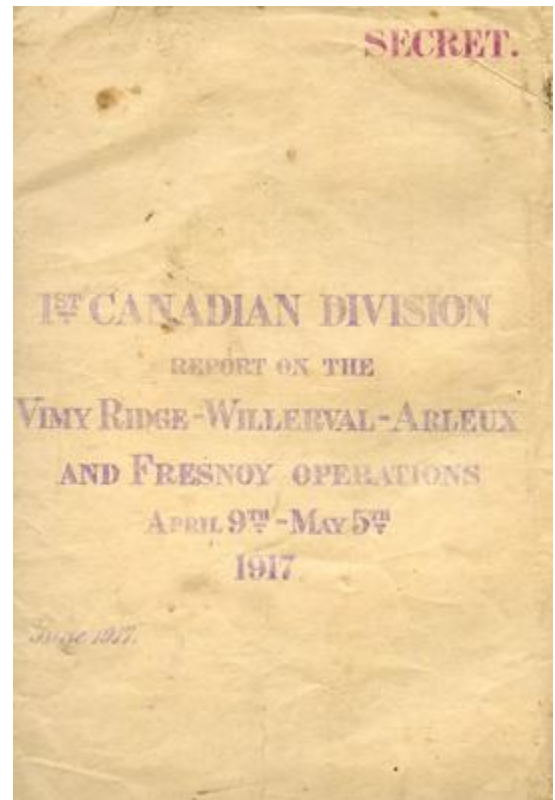
The Mons Scrapbook

The Draper Fonds also includes another important document known as The Mons Scrapbook. Presented to military officials at the end of the war, the scrapbook details the operations of the 3rd Canadian Division in the Forêt des Raismes and Mons regions in France and Belgium thereby providing a firsthand account of the last days of the First World War.

A transcription of the Scrapbook is available online [here](#).

Suggested Readings:

- Brereto Greenhous; Stephen J. Harris, *Canada and the Battle of Vimy Ridge: 9-12 April, 1917*, Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1992.
- Éric Labayle; Christian Duquesne, *Les Canadiens au combat: Vimy, Lens et le bassin minier: 1917*, Ysec, 2017.
- J.L. Granastein, *The Greatest Victory: Canada's One Hundred Days, 1918*, Oxford University Press, 2014.



HOW DO I FIND INFORMATION ON PHYSICAL MATERIALS SUCH AS WAR MEDALS, WAR TROPHIES, AWARDS, AND OTHER MATERIAL CULTURE?

War Medals

The Brome County Historical Society has many war medals in its collection. Comparing and contrasting medals with the labeled collection in the archives can assist with deciphering the significance and origin of a medal.

Note on names: Names of the soldiers whom the medals belonged to are usually written on the rim of the medal.



Veterans Affairs Canada has a simple resource for finding medals and decorations for those who served in the War. The [find a medal](#) page allows you to search by keyword and category. Pictures of the medals are presented and all associated info includes descriptions, context, and eligibility.

[The Badge Registry of the Canadian Expeditionary Force](#) allows you to find the medals of each battalion from the war in chronological order. Each battalion can be clicked on for photos of alternate medals. Pictured here are the unit badges for the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles and 117th Battalion from the Eastern Townships.



Suggested Readings:

- Christopher McCreery, *The Canadian Honours System*, Dundurin, 2005.

Collection of the Brome County Historical Society

The Brome County Historical Society has an extensive collection of material culture related to WWI graciously donated over the years.

- Canadian and British Collection: Displayed in the Martin Annex and located in the archival holdings, many artifacts including weapons, helmets, uniforms, tools, medals, etc. can be found.
- German collection: Various artefacts captured from German soldiers are displayed in the Martin Annex including helmets, maps, postcards, rifles, artillery, trench tools, gas masks, the Fokker D.VII airplane, etc.
- French collection: Various war posters and photos depicting French soldiers are located in the archives.
- War posters: Canadian, American, and French.
- Photographs: A collection of war and naval photographs are located in the archives. Other photographs depicting aerial views, towns, soldiers, and operations can be found as well. Lieutenant Lawrence Howard Nichols, a soldier from Knowlton, Qc who served in 9th Field Ambulance during the War, took many photos which are located in the archives (CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D2).

For more information and assistance on materials related to World War I, contact Museum staff at museum@shcb.ca



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON FRANCOPHONE, FRENCH, AND FRENCH-CANADIAN HISTORY IN WWI?

Many Francophone and French-Canadian soldiers fought in the War. While some units were comprised of francophone and anglophone soldiers, some units exclusively recruited francophone men. The 163rd battalion (French-Canadian) was such a francophone unit. Organized in late 1915 and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel H. Desrosiers, the battalion recruited French-speaking soldiers from many cities and communities including the Eastern Townships.

For example, [Joseph Ernest Pagé](#), a francophone soldier from Knowlton served in the 163rd battalion. A full list of soldiers from the unit can be found in a [CEF report on the 163rd battalion](#).

The 22nd Battalion (French-Canadian), now commonly referred to as the Royal 22e Régiment, is another well-known francophone battalion that had a notable impact on Canada's success in the war.

The French war posters at Brome County Historical Society



Recruitment poster of the 163rd Battalion, Brome County Historical Society

Nestled in the BCHS archives, French (France) war posters offer great insight into the political and social framework of the time. Listed below is a selection of the overall collection of French posters located in the archives:

- *Pour La Patrie*
- *Souvenez-Vous (Pour le Drapeau & Pour la Victoire*
- *14 Juillet 1916 & 1917, Journée de Paris*
- *3e Emprunt de la Défense Nationale*
- *3e Emprunt de la Défense Nationale, Crédit Lyonnais (Pour la France qui Combat & Pour Celle qui chaque jour Grandit)*
- *Semaine de la Charente, 1917*
- *Vous Aussi Faites Votre Devoir*
- *Compagnie Algérienne*
- *La Cardinal Mercier*

Similarly, the BCHS archives contain multiple photos showing French soldiers. Listed below are a selection of photographs in the archives which depict French soldiers and the military:

- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D2-P50
- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D2-P37
- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D1-P16
- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D1-P13
- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D1-P12
- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D1-P11
- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D1-P9
- CA BCHS BCHS356-S2-D1-P7

Suggested readings on French-Canada during WWI:

- Gérard Filteau, *Le Québec, le Canada et la guerre 1914-1918*, L'aurore, Montréal, 1977.
- Jean Martin, *Yes, French Canadians Did Their Share in the First World War*, Canadian Military No. 17(4), 2017.
- Jean-Pierre Gagnon, *Le 22e Bataillon*, Les Presses de l'Université Laval en collaboration avec le ministère de la Défense nationale et le Centre d'édition du gouvernement du Canada, Ottawa et Québec, 1986.
- Martin F. Auger, *On the brink of civil war. The Canadian government and the suppression of the 1918 Quebec Easter Riots*, Canadian Historical Review No. 89(4), 2008.
- Michel Litalien, *Écrie sa guerre. Témoignages de soldats canadiens-français, 1914-1919*, Athéna, 2011.
- Mourad Djebabla, *Historiographie francophone de la Première Guerre mondiale: écrire la Grande Guerre de 1914-1918 en français au Canada et au Québec*, Canadian Historical Review, No. 95(3), 2014.
- Robert Comeau, *Le Québec et la Première Guerre mondiale, 1914-1918*, VLB, 2009.
- Vennat, Pierre: *Les 'poilus' québécois de 1914-1918*, Histoire des militaires canadiens-français de la Première Guerre mondiale, Éditions du Méridien, 1999.

HOW CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON NURSES AND WOMEN IN THE WAR?

Just like soldiers, women and nurses in the war played a crucial role in the success and perseverance of the army. Over 3000 nurses volunteered their services during the war and were distinct with their blue dresses and white veils. Nurses served at hospitals and stations very close to the front lines, where they would assess soldiers battling in the trenches. By the end of the war, many women would pay the ultimate sacrifice while many continued to work back at home helping with the aftermath of the war. A [memorial](#) honoring the nurses of the war was erected in Ottawa in 1926.

Finding records of nurses is also easily attainable. The Canadian Expeditionary Force also included nurses, therefore nurses' personal records can be found within the [Personal Records of the First World War](#) as well. Many, but not all nurses served in the CEF, however [various sources](#) listed by different categories at Library and Archives Canada can be of assistance. A name-by-name list by [The Canadian Great War Project](#) lists the nurses of the war in alphabetical order. Simply click on a nurse to view biographical details neatly displayed. Likewise, the Canadian Medical Army Corps were the units where most nurses served. [The list of units](#) can be consulted as well.

Note: Since the number of nurses in the CEF was small during the start of the war (1914), nurses earlier on in the war may be listed in other areas. As the war progressed, more nurses would join the Canadian Army Medical Corps.

How can I find photos of nurses during the War?

The “[O](#)” and “[M](#)” prefix series are a sub-series under the Canadian War Records Office which holds records relating to the C.A.M.C and contains many photos of nurses from the war.

Suggested Readings:

- Geneviève Allard, *Caregiving on the Front: The Experience of Canadian Military Nurses During World War I*, On All Frontiers: Four Centuries of Canadian Nursing, University of Ottawa Press, 2005.
- Linda J. Quiney, *This Small Army of Women: Canadian Volunteer Nurses and the First World War*, UBC Press, 2017.
- Mélanie Morin-Pelletier, *Des oiseaux bleus chez les Poilus. Les infirmières des hôpitaux militaires canadiens-français postés en France, 1915-1919*, Bulletin d'histoire politique, No. 17(2), 2009.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOME FRONT?

Textual material can offer interesting insight about the home front during the war. Specifically in Brome County, newspapers were an easy way for the public and communities of the Eastern Townships to interact and obtain important information about the war and men and women overseas.

At the Brome Historical Society archives, newspapers dated from 1914-1918 hold great contextual material for life in the county and the overall social atmosphere at the time. Listed below are some of the items found in the Leader-Mail Granby Newspapers relating to the War.

- **Advertisements:** Although materialistic in nature, advertisements found within the newspapers give a general impression of how the public was consuming the war. For example, the Wrigley's Gum ads from 1914-1918 increasingly relied on militaristic imagery. Similarly, toaster ads, general store ads, and clothing ads, etc. can be found in the newspapers relying on the same type of imagery.
- **Recruitment:** Recruitment campaigns can be found early on in the 1914 papers, and they would become larger in later editions of the paper. "Kitchener's call of men", "Canadians wanted for the navy", "Men wanted for the navy", and "A call for men for the British Empire war efforts" are some examples.
- **Funds, victory loans, and bonds:** The victory loans and bonds were an effort by the government to fund the expensive war efforts. Although starting in 1915, the advertisements for the victory loans became prevalent later in the war, and the progression of the ads can clearly be seen through the newspapers. Most of the victory loan ads can be found in the 1918 newspapers. Likewise, the YMCA, a national volunteer organization which funded and facilitated projects relating to War efforts, published funds in newspapers which can be found in the Leader-Mail Granby papers.
- **Letters:** Columns in the newspapers would regularly publish letters from soldiers overseas for the public to read.
- **News:** News of the war was frequent, and the newspapers give a primary source on how the people of Brome County would have received news. Examples such as "Disabled Canadian Soldiers", "Prisoners of War", and "Germany must ask for Peace" can be found.

The Bishop's Old Library, located at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, also holds various newspapers from the time of the war related to Brome County:

- Le progrès de l'est microform (Mfilm AN .C3 P75)
- Knowlton news and Brome County advocate microform (Mfilm AN .C3 K65)
- Waterloo advertiser and Eastern Townships advocate microform (AN .C3 W3)
- Sherbrooke daily record microform (AN .C3 S5)

CONTACT US/ FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or for research assistance please do not hesitate to reach out to us at archives@shcb.ca. You can also reach us by phone at 450-243-6782.

To read the BCHS's research policy [click here](#).