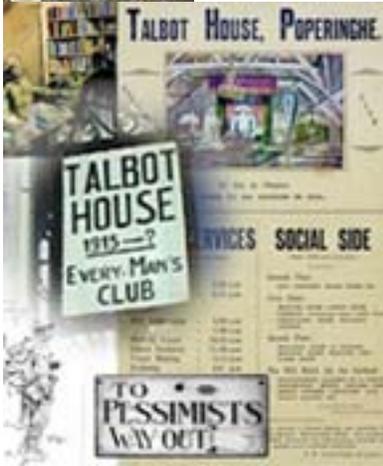


Diary of **FRED GROVES KERLEY**



1st Canadian Pioneers





Personal Diary of Fred Groves Kerley
1ST CANADIAN PIONEERS
Joined August 14th, 1915



This is the personal diary of Fred Groves Kerley. It records daily activities from August 12, 1915 to March 1, 1919. Actual personal diary entries are italicized and bolded.

From the start of the First World War, CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Force) units were required to maintain a daily account of their actions in the field. This log was called a War Diary. War diaries for WWI can be downloaded at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/index-e.html>. I have referred to these confidential war diaries from time to time as they closely follow entries in the personal diary recorded here.



Left Albert Head Aug 12, 1915

Albert Head is a multi-faceted training facility, which is attached to CFB Esquimalt. This site is still Department of National Defence property and is also used for cadet training.

Joined Canadian Pioneers Aug. 13

1st Battalion Pioneers was an engineering/construction battalion, which was organized in Esquimalt in 1915. Late that year, the battalion was shipped overseas for service in France and Belgium. In 1917 the unit became the 9th Battalion Canadian Railway Troops and constructed the narrow gauge railways for the Battles of Arras.

An excerpt from the August 13, 1915, edition of The Daily Colonist, Victoria, BC, states:

The special work of these men is implied in the name given them. They were to go before a regiment to clear obstacles from their path or to be employed in work which is more usually associated with the Royal Engineers.



Sworn in August 14, 1915

Left Victoria September 23

Left Vancouver October 16

1915 cont'd

Arrived Winnipeg October 1

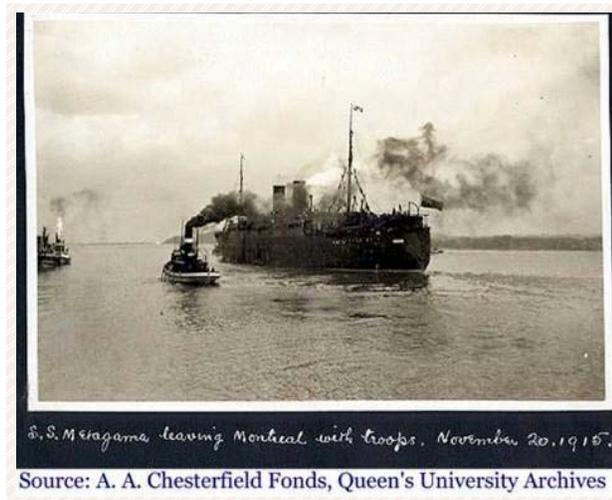
Left Winnipeg November 16

Arrived Montreal November 19

*Left Montreal on board SS Metagama on Saturday,
November 19*

Photo of S.S. Metagama leaving Montreal with troops, November 20, 1915.

<http://archives.queensu.ca/wwi/technol.html>



The *Metagama* was built by Barclay Curle & Co Ltd, Glasgow in 1914 for Canadian Pacific Railway. Launched on November 19, 1914, she sailed from Liverpool on her maiden voyage to St John, NB on March 26, 1915. Her early years were shrouded in wartime secrecy. She was withdrawn from service in August 1930, a victim of the 1930's slump

1916 cont'd

Arrived Plymouth Harbour November 29

Arrived Harmstow December 1

Left Harmstow February 14 for Thorncliffe

Left Thorncliffe March 9. Sailed on SS London from Folkestone



Photo taken at Folkestone

Folkestone, Kent is on the south-east coast of England, close to the Straits of Dover. During the First World War, Folkestone received some 65,000 Belgian refugees and from 1915 was the main embarkation point for many soldiers leaving to fight in the trenches of France and Belgium.

Tens of thousands of soldiers, including many Canadian troops, left from Folkestone, marching down from the town to the harbour along a road, which is now called the Road of Remembrance.

1916 cont'd

See Unit War Diary - March 1916, p 3 Marched to Osterhove Camp

Arrived Boulogne March 9. Marched to Rest Camp - 3 miles - some march in full pack.

March 10 - Nothing much doing - went for a short route march.

March 11, 1916 Left Boulogne for somewhere - arrived at Bailleul station at 4 o'clock and marched to Aldershot camp about 6 miles - fell off transport and got covered in mud.

See Unit War Diary - March 1916, p 3 Bailleul Railway Station

March 12, 1916 Sunday, at least I think so. All days are alike now. Heard the guns for the first time. Things are getting interesting now.

March 13 We had our first trip to the trenches. Left camp at 5:50 Landed there at 10 o'clock. Had shells whistling round.

See Unit War Diary - March 1916, p 4 Proceeded to front line trenches

March 14 Left the front line trenches at daybreak for the Winter trench.

March 15 In the front line again. Went on listening post - beginning to know there are 24 hours in the day.

March 17 Went out on working party at night.

March 18 Sat. Left at 3:30 for the trenches. Nothing very exciting today. Sunday in the trenches. Cannot realize it. Heavy shelling going on today. We are in No. 134 Plug Street.

Plug Street was the Tommy's nickname for the Belgian village of Ploegsteert.

March 1916 cont'd

See Unit War Diary - Mar 1916, p 6

Monday 20th All day in the trenches. We were shelled heavy today. Several shells dropped on Irish force. We were packing barbed wire from Irish force to the trenches and then we had to put it up in front of the trench. We came out at 12:30. -- arrived back in Aldershot about 3 o'clock.

Tuesday 21st Resting all day.

Wed. 22nd Nothing much doing today.

Thurs. 23rd On fatigue all day. Cleaning ditches-some job. Went to a concert at Y.M.C.A. -the Canadian Div. Band play there every night and a good band it is.

Fri. Nothing much doing.

Wed. 29 Left Meux Eglose at 8 o'clock on route - some march with full pack. Passed through Bailleul Quite a good-sized town. We landed up near Godewaersvelde. We are billeted in barns among the cattle - not too bad though - went to the town in the evening - had an interesting time - met two Belgian refugees who keep a restaurant and they talked good English. One had to leave college in Belgium.

See Unit War Diary - Mar 1916, pg 10

Thurs. Resting to-day, washing socks etc. In the evening went to Steswoorde and saw a picture show - quite a good show run by the Army Authoritaire.

Fri. Had an easy time today.

Apr 1, 1916

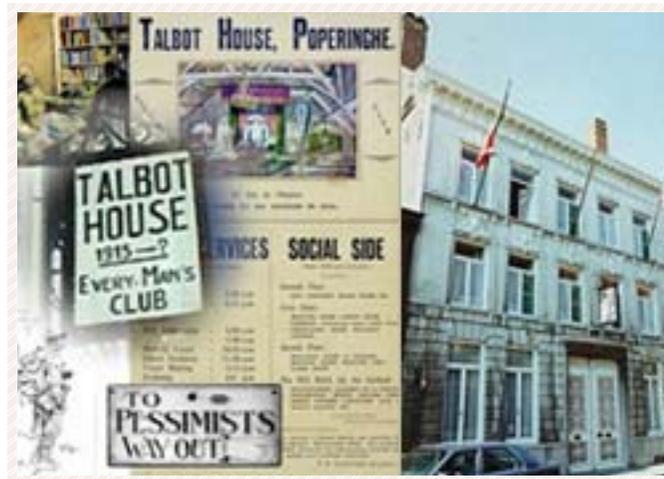
Saturday Marched off at 9 o'clock, passed through Abele into Belgium's gate Arrived at Poperingue - quite a good-sized town. Lots of stores and several large churches. The Guards are here. We are quartered in some kind of a house. We are quite near Ypres now. Went to a picture show in the evening.

See Unit War Diary - April 1916, p 3

Apr 2, 1916

Sunday Had a walk around the town - quite an interesting place. In the afternoon went to a concert at Talbot House. The Coldstream Guards Band played and they were fine.

The Coldstream Guards Band was one of the first British Army bands to make a recording



Apr 3, 1916

Monday On parade all day - went back to a good bill again in the evening went to a picture show. The front seems a long ways away but we can hear their guns.

April, 1916 cont'd

Tuesday Nothing more of interest today. Played football in the afternoon against the R.L.J. Lots of fun. We won easily. 8 goals to 1.

Wed. Henderson went to hospital to-day with a sore toe.

Thurs. Am working at the baths fixing up.

Fri. Ted Besson was killed to-day.

Sat. We had our bath and could certainly do with one.

Sunday Cannot realize it is but must be. Was working all morning - in the afternoon we played football against the Guards and we won 4 goals to 2.

Monday April 10 The platoon went out to the trenches tonight. Was disappointed at not going with them but we have to finish our job at the baths.

Tuesday Was at a concert at the Y.M.C.A. tonight. The Germans are shelling the higher part of the town tonight.

Sat, April 15 Working at Baths. Henderson came back from hospital. Played football this aft. Against C Company. Won 2 to 1. Went to see Fancies in the evening - a fine show.

Sunday, April 16 Working at Baths all day.

May 5 Met Harry Armstrong at the baths and spent the afternoon and evening with him - had a good time together.

May 7 Sunday Finished at the baths - met Harry again. Had a good time together.

May 8 Came to Ypres to-night by train from Poperinge at night. Arrived in about 10 o'clock. Went out on working party out to transport farm building machine gun emplacements.

1916 cont'd

May 9 Had a look around Ypres today - some ruin - at night went out to work again near Bedford House in the St Elis Road went by the famous shrapnel corner - lots of shells.

May 10 - Went to the same place tonight carrying party with cement - arrived back at 2:30.

May 11th Work parties

May 14 Sunday on work party at night building crouts machine gun emplacement.

May 24 Victoria Day Was sent for to go down to Poperinge to play football finished. - had a good time.

May 26 We carried concrete to Ypres working on emplacements.

Friday, June 2 Terrific bombardment all day. Shells dropping all over. Started out on working party but were turned back. It was some sight-flares going up in every direction.

Sat. Heavy firing all day. We went up to the front line tonight to repair trench. An attack started while we were there and we had our worst experience of shellfire. It was warm while it lasted. The Canadians must have suffered severe losses.

At Mount Sorrel Canadian troops suffered 8,430 casualties. On the morning of June 2, 1916, the Germans mounted an attack to dislodge the Allies from their positions at Mount Sorrel just north of the Ypres-Menin road. In the fiercest bombardment yet experienced by Canadian troops, whole sections of trench were obliterated and the defending garrisons annihilated. Human bodies and even the trees of Sanctuary Wood were hurled into the air by the explosions. By evening, the enemy advance was checked, but the important vantage points of Mount Sorrel and Hills 61 and 62 were lost. A counter-attack by the Canadians the next morning failed; and on June 6, after exploding four mines on the Canadian front, the Germans assaulted again and captured Hooge on the Menin Road.

1916 cont'd

Sunday June 4 Went to new Bleasipoint Farm digging support trenches.

Monday On working party at Zillebeke. We were shelled heavily. Had to lay in trenches.

See Unit War Diary June 1916, p 10

Tuesday June 6. Were out to Hill 60 on working party. Trenches were in a bad state.

Wed. Was out to Observatory Ridge sapping, rather an exciting job as we were in No Mans Land. Saw lots of dead lying around Zillebeke Village - a pityful sight.

No Man's Land was the area of land between the trenches. Sapping was used as a military tactic in WWI when ambitious army engineers would attempt to break the stalemate of trench warfare by tunneling through *No Man's Land* and laying large quantities of explosives directly under the enemy's trench. This was possible due to the very static nature of that era's fighting. A notable example was Messines Ridge, under which 450 tonnes of high explosive were placed in 21 mines after about two years of sapping. On June 7, 1917, approximately 10,000 German troops were killed when 19 of the mines were simultaneously detonated. The blast was felt in London and other parts of England.

Thursday We went out to Poperinge for a rest.

Friday We had to stand to all day ready to move out. Part of the Company went out at 10 o'clock.

Sunday Orders to go out to Ypres again - a very short rest. We had to go out as support to the front lines but things were fairly quiet.

Monday, June 12 We had a night in Ypres. Half the company was out to the front line. Forest, Bolting, Decker were killed tonight. Greg Heald, Bone, MacGregor, Cufley were held as reserves. Bradbury was wounded. Tonight our boys took some German prisoners.

1916 cont'd

Tuesday raining all day - some weather for June - just getting ready to go out - had a warm reception - went out to the front line to fix trenches - dead lying everywhere. We had shells bursting all round so we could not do any work.

Wednesday Went out again tonight and were heavily shelled. Shrapnel and high explosives all round - was lying in a shell hole for an hour in 2 feet of water. Brought out wounded then went out to the front lines again and what a difference, not a shell. We buried a German and I brought home a German rifle bayonet.

June 16 Going to Pop tonight

Saturday Had bath and then went to Busseyboom. Had 5 fine days rest there in a camp in the country.

Went back to Ypres on Friday night 23.

Saturday Went to Sanctuary Wood on work party - a quiet night.

At Sanctuary Wood Museum, near the village of Passchendaele, a section of the British trenches has been preserved. For the soldiers in the War this was Hill 62 (referring to its slightly elevated location, which made it deadly when the attack uphill towards the German lines was launched). Some of the heaviest fighting of the First World War took place here in 1915 and 1916.

Monday, June 26 Went to the Asylum dressing station and went on to next station at Brentwood.

The Dressing Station was the first port of call for wounded soldiers behind the lines.

July, 1916

Tuesday Sent to 1st Dieu Rest Camp near Boschepe. Had nearly a week at Rest Camp - was glad to get out of it. On July 2 went back to camp at Busseyboom working on building huts.

1916 cont'd

July 14 Off to Ypres again tonight. Lucky no work party tonight.

July 15 Went to Blonapoint Farm to work on dressing station - had a quiet time. George Buff was wounded.

July 16 Ditto

July 18 Heavy bombardment. Fritzy put a shell through the dressing station we are building.

July 19 Fixing up station again - Hallem wounded tonight. Bad place for snipers, this.

July 21 Working party by day. Went up to front line trenches - building dressing station up on Lover's Lane through Grand Fleet Trench - had a good view of the country by daylight. In the evening was sitting talking to Doug when shell came through roof of kitchen and Doug had about 20 wounds with shrapnel and bricks flying - was a lucky escape for me. Marched out to Busseyboom at night - was tired when we got there.

July 28 went to a church parade - the first in a long while - the Reverend Barton from Victoria took the service.

July 23 to 29, 1916 Resting at Busseyboom. Had a fine time there. Arranged 2 football games and we won both - the best rest we have had for some time.

July 29 - Left for Ypres at 9:00 marching order - quite a walk.

July 30 to August 2 - A quiet time, have an easy job this trip - Officer's Mess Fatigue.

1916 cont'd

August 8 - Gas attack tonight. We had to wear our helmets. Did not get any of our fellows but got some of the Imperials. Left Ypres at 2:00, August 9 for Busseyboom. Left Busseyboom at night and started on our way south. Stopped just outside Poperinge.

At the Battle of Somme (July – November 1916) the British launched a major attack against the Germans, using gas for the first time.

Friday, August 13 Broke camp again and are back near where we billeted a few months ago - near Godewaervelde.

Monday, August 14 Left camp at 4:00 am. We slept in the open fields here. We marched about 13 miles today and we were about all in. It's very pretty country around here. We went through Cassel and camped a little way outside.

Tuesday, August 15 - Left camp again at 7:00. We passed through Watten. Had a beautiful view from the top of the hill. We did about 10 miles today. We are billeted in an old house just outside a little town called Tilques and near Sorquies.

Sunday, August 20 We are having a nice time here - plenty of drill though - 6 hours a day but a good change from the front lines. I went with Bliss to Saint Omer today. We had a fine time. There was a concert in the park and lots of people there - quite a variety - Australians, New Zealand, Canada, French, Imperials. The French girls dress smart - quite different to Belgium. Saint Omer is quite a nice town.

Thursday, August 24 - We were inspected by General Currie today. He seemed pleased and gave us a little speech on the afternoon. Went to Saint Omer with Summer Line. We had a good time.

1916 cont'd

Sunday, August 27 - Just preparing to move again. Just got our direction. Route leave Sergues 8:49 on 27th. Arrive Arques 1:49 on 28th. Leave Arques on train 4:49 on 28th. Detrain "Canada's" billets at Donquer. Route to billets via Fron, Villiers, Bernaville and Longavilles.

Monday 28th - Left on train 4:50 via Saint Omer, Calais, Boulogne to Abberville, Bernville. Detrained at Cauday at 2:00 pm - marched 12 miles to Donquer.

Tuesday, 29th - Left Donquer 8:00 am - passed through Bernville, Mont Relet, Bonneville and billeted at Beaveal - 13 miles.

Wednesday, 30th - Left 8:30 past Talmas, Rubengeres, Hesirest and Contay - billeted outside - about 10 miles march.

Thursday - Left Contay and are at Senlis - Bivouacked in the open on the side of a hill.

Sunday - Still at Senlis. Went to church - standing to all day.

Monday, September 4th - Left Senlis and passed through Albert - billeted near Albert - quite a sight to see all the troops.

Tuesday, September 5th - Went to Albert and working at Railhead repairing cars but a fine job.

Monday, September 25th - Left Albert and came to Senlis for rest. Some mudhole this.

Monday, October 2 - Left Senlis for Albert again. I saw Harry yesterday - some rain today.

Tuesday, October 3rd - Working with engineers at Becourt Wood.

1916 cont'd

Monday, October 10th - Left B Court on route. Stayed at Warlow.

Left on 16th for Beauveal.

18th - Left for Bonneville.

20th - Left Bonneville and Montrelet and Bernaville.

21st - Left. Arrived at Bonnières.

Sunday - left. Passed through Frevent on route to Berlencourt.

Wednesday, October 25th - We got paid this morning and went to St. Pol. Had an interesting time and an unpleasant experience. I went with 2 pals and we were arrested on our way home and spent the night in the Guard Room - some experience - one I do not want again.

Thursday - We were escorted out of the town by an escort with fixed bayonets - I thought it very degrading experience but personally I thought the ABM was all to blame. I was glad to go back to our own people again.

ABM stands for Automatic Bottle Machine. It is a machine-oriented manufacturing technique that was the turning point from handcrafted bottles to automated productions. By 1913 most bottles were made by ABMs.

Friday, 27th - Left and came on to . . . We are close to the line again. We passed the Duke of Devonshire on our way - arrived at Villers De Bois near Vimy Ridge. Working on headquarters so have nothing exciting to record.

Friday, December 15 - Left Villers De Bois and arrived after about 10 mile march at Wanquentin near Arras. The battalion is going on railroad work.

See Unit War Diary Dec 1916, p 17

1916 cont'd

Tuesday, December 19 - Went to Agnez to put up huts for company.

Wednesday - Ditto

Friday, December 22 - Working around headquarters. Got news today that I am to go on leave tomorrow. Busy cleaning up tonight.

Saturday, December 23 - Left Wellington at 6:30 pm for Abingice. Stopped there till 3:00.

Sunday, 24th - Travelling all day and arrived at Calais at 9:00. Then we marched about 5 miles to a rest camp where we stayed al night. Some cold night.

December 25 - Left Calais at 4:00 and arrived in dear old Blighty at 5:30. Arrived in London about 8:00 and left for home on the 26th. Had a fine time - no question about that.

January 4, 1917 - Left Victoria Station at 6:15. Arrived Calais.

Calais, France is the principal port of the European mainland.

January 5th - Travelling all day. Some ride in French trains.

January 6th - Arrived at Wanquentin

The village of Wanquentin is near Arras, France

February 9th. Returned to Company.

February 10th - Left for Labret under shell fire today. It seemed rather strange.

February 11th - Left Wanquentin for La Heliers and Labret. Have not written in diary lately. We are working on light railways.

1917 cont'd

March 28th - Played 2 football matches and won both. We have had an interesting time here on the whole. Under orders to move tomorrow.

March 30th. Went to Wanquentin from there to the summit - then to Warly on to Boyelles and then back to Beaumetz. From there to Achiel Le Grand.

On April 2, 1917, artillery bombardment was stepped up to wear down enemy soldiers. Before the battle began, more than one million shells had been fired into German trenches. Early in the morning of April 9, 20,000 soldiers attacked in the first wave of fighting in the battle of Vimy Ridge. The Canadians were extremely successful and took the ridge by afternoon.

Vimy Ridge proved to be a turning point in World War I. Canadians were an important part of this epic battle. The entire Canadian contingent was commended as being an elite fighting Corps.

July 1 - At Achiet-le-Grand - Dominion Day - had a Sport Day at Bahagny Headquarters. Played football etc. won 5 to 1 had a good day.

Achiet-le-Grand, France is a village 19 kilometres south of Arras, France

July 2 - Went to Yette through Bapamue to play return game with CCRF Had a good time there.

See Unit War Diary July, 1917, p 4

July 3 - Waiting orders to move.

July 4 - Working Mon Left Achiet-le-Grand for Belgium.

July 5 - arrived at Poperinge. Just about a year ago we left this post - marched about . . . miles from Poperinge.

The town of Poperinge, Belgium is situated about 8 miles to the west of Ieper/Ypres,

July 7 - Working at Waesten rather exciting. Fritz shelled us out.

1917 cont'd

*July 13 - Working on track at Waesten.
Fritzy is shelling very heavy now. He is putting them over
one a minute. Another piece of track gone up in the air.*

Battle of Passchendaele 1917



Canadian Pioneers laying trench mats over mud; Battle of Passchendaele



Canadian Pioneers carrying trench mats; wounded and prisoners in background

*July 16 - We had a holiday today and I went to Poperinge.
Had a nice time.*

*July 17 - Had order to pick up 6 of us and report to GHQ.
We had a fine ride today through St. Omer, Cassell. Had
dinner at Cassell and on to Montreul and to Monthense.
Some change this.*

*July 22, Sunday - Had a holiday today. Went by lorry to
Marlimont, which is by the sea. Had a dip in the briny.
Had an altogether delightful day.*

The Battle for Hill 70 which took place on August 15, 1917, marked the first use of mustard gas against the Canadians

1917 cont'd

August 20 - Left Monthense to rejoin Batt. Passed through Aire then Hazelbrook and arrived in Camp about 6 pm. Working around Hill 60 Zillebeke Lake. Familiar surroundings here. Fritzy gives us a warm time here.

The area around Zillebeke Lake was frequently under German artillery fire, right up to the end of hostilities. Casualties were continual.

Left Ypres September 30th for West Cappel in the French Zone. Left West Cappel for Audrieq October 13th. Arrived today after being lost in the wood for some time.

West Cappel, France is 20 kilometres inland from Dunkirk and near the Belgium border.

December 27 - A fine concert tonight by Miss Sara Silvers Contralto.

1918

Conscription was in force by January 1918.

January 12 Left Audrieq for Vlamertinge.

Vlamertinge is a village on the road from Poperinge to Ypres. For much of the war it saw intensive activity - during night hours - of transport and troops going to and from the Salient. It was also the site of various medical units. Vlamertinge was often within range of German shellfire, and consequently was badly damaged.

January 13 - Left for St. Jean to the Company.

January 16 - Left St. Jean to go on leave - staying at Headquarters tonight.

Left Bolongue on the 18th Jan.

Left Victoria Station on 1st February. Arrived at Poperinge on 2nd February.

Went to Valenstingue on 3rd. Found the Batt had gone. We were sent on by lorry on the third.

1918 cont'd

Stopped off at Meteren and joined the Batt at Beliagnus on the 4th. Working at Headquarters.

February 12 - Left Beliagnis in route for Audrieq passed through Lillem and stopped at St. Omer that night.

February 13 - Arrived at Audrieq

February 14 - Left Audrieq for Montreuil Headquarters - arrived via Botelongue today.

February 15 - Nothing doing today. Fixing billet, etc.

February 16 - Started work on hut.

March 19 - Left Montreuil for Hedrieq. Working at Audrieq.

April 26 - Left Audrieq for Wanquentin. Stayed there 1 night.

April 27 - Left Wanquentin for Labret.

April 29 - Started working at Labret for ADLR

The battle of Amiens began on August 8, 1918. This was the first day of what war historians call "The Last Hundred Days." The Canadian attack so surprised and disoriented the Germans that their commander-in-chief, General Ludendorff, said that August 8, 1918 was "the blackest day of the German Army in the history of the war." And Sir Julian Byng, the British general who had commanded the Canadian Corps at Vimy Ridge, told his successor, Ontario-born General Arthur Currie, that the Canadian performance at Amiens was "the finest operation of the war."

Thurs., September 27 - Left Labret returned to Company at Fremicourt.

1918 cont'd

Friday, September 28 - Put bridge over to Nord Canal.

More than at any other time during the First World War, the particular skills of engineer brigades were solicited. These specialized units were rapidly deployed, often working under machine-gun fire to make the canals passable by building vital bridges and pontoons for artillery troops and floating foot bridges over water-filled portions of the canal.



Canadian troops constructing a bridge across Canal-du-Nord, September 1918.
National Archives of Canada

See Unit War Diary Sept 1918, p 16 Bridging Canal-Du-Nord

The Battle of the Canal-Du-Nord and Cambrai began on September 27, 1918, with a hair-raising rush across a dangerously narrow canal passage. It ended in triumph on October 11, when the Canadians, exhausted after days of unremitting fighting, finally drove the Germans out of their most important remaining distribution centre, Cambrai.

1918 cont'd



Canadians entering the Square in Cambrai, October 1918

October 7 - Left Fremicourt for Bayelles.

October 11 - Left Boyelles on route billeted at Masmieres.

October 17 - Left Masmieres for Caudry. Quite a number of civilians left here.

Caudry is a commune and small manufacturing town in the department of the Nord, between Cambrai and Le Cateau. The town was the scene of part of the Battle of Le Cateau on August 26, 1914, and from that date it remained in German hands until the October 10, 1918, when it was captured by the 37th Division. It had been a German centre for medical units.

1918 cont'd

October 23 - Left Caudry en route for Paris. Arrived tonight to work on bridge gang.

See Unit War Diary Oct 1918, p 18

October 29 - Left Naves on French leave to Nice. Arrived at Paris in evening 29th.

October 31 - Left Paris for Nice. Arrived on 1st November.

1918 cont'd

On November 2, 1918 the Canadian Corps captured the town of Valenciennes in its last major battle of the war.

November 4 - Left Nice

November 8 - Arrived Paris in morning. Left at 5 o'clock for Rouen. Arrived at 8 o'clock,

November 9 - Left Rouen at 11:00 pm.

Nov 10, 1918 - The Canadian Corps Reached the outskirts of Mons.

Nov 11, 1918

November 11 - Arrived at Reux via Cambora - went on to Solemeos.

See Unit War Diary Nov 1918, p 14

Armistice was signed at 5:00 am and hostilities ceased at 11:00 am, November 11, 1918.

November 13 - Left Solemeos for St. Ghislain.

December 22 - Left St. Ghislain on route for Canada. Left at 12:00 noon.

See Unit War Diary Dec 1918, p 16

December 23 - Arrived at Etaples at 7:00 pm December 24. Resting at Etaples.

Etaples is a fishing port near Boulogne, northern France. During the First World War the town became a vast Allied military camp and then a giant hospital city. Many medical facilities were established by the Australians, New Zealanders and British. Wounded soldiers were often sent to Etaples to recover or en route for Britain.

December 25 - Left Etaples for Havre. Arrived at 7:00 o'clock.

Le Havre is located at the mouth of the Seine river on the Channel, some 200 Km from Paris.

1918 cont'd

December 26 - Arrived at Havre at 12:00 noon.

December 27 - Left Havre at 11:00 o'clock. Arrived at Southampton at 8:00 am.

December 28 - Left for Witley Camp, Surrey. Arrived at one o'clock.

December 31 - Left Witley for Bournemouth on leave.



Photo taken Norfolk Studios, Bournemouth

1919

January 6 - Left Bournemouth for London.

January 8 - Left London for Witley.

January 13 - Left Witley for Rhyl. Passed through Reading, Birmingham on route.

February 1 - Left Rhyl for Liverpool. Embarked onboard SS Carmania. She pulled out at 9:00 pm.

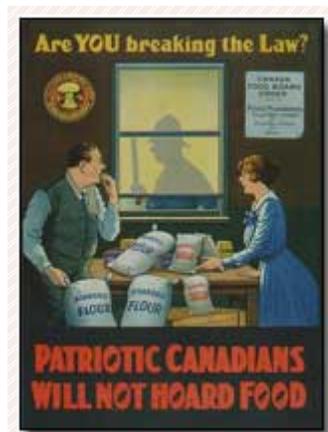
February 8, Saturday - Landed at Halifax at 6:00 pm. Left on train at 7:00 pm.

February 10 - Arrived at Quebec.

February 11, Tuesday - Left Quebec at 11:00 pm for Winnipeg.

February 13 - Arrived Winnipeg.

March 1 - Left Winnipeg.



ORIGINAL

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 154013

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

- 1. What is your name?..... Fred Groves Kenley
- 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... Brunnensmouth, England.
- 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... Father, Samuel Kenley
- 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... Lincoln Road, Wallace Brown, Brunnenmouth, England.
- 5. What is the date of your birth?..... 24 May 1887
- 6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... Engineer
- 7. Are you married?..... no
- 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?..... yes
- 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... no
- 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... no
If so, state particulars of former Service.
- 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... yes
- 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?..... yes

Fred Groves Kenley (Signature of Man).
Ed E. Hoot (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Fred Groves Kenley, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions 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, for 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: Aug. 14 1915
Fred Groves Kenley (Signature of Recruit)
Ed E. Hoot (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Fred Groves Kenley, 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 honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date: Aug. 14 1915
Fred Groves Kenley (Signature of Recruit)
Ed E. Hoot (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Victoria this 14 day of August 1915.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit
David McPherson (Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 23.
 290 M.-6-15.
 H. Q. 1272-93-841.

As an undersigned
 CAPT. APPROVING OFFICER
 1ST. CANADIAN PIONEER BATTN. C. E. F.

Description of Fred Groves Kenley on Enlistment.

Apparent Age... 28 years... 4 months.
 (To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Height..... 5 ft. 5 ins.

Chest measure above { Girth when fully expanded..... 37 ins.
 Range of expansion..... 3 1/2 ins.

Complexion..... Dark

Eyes..... Brown

Hair..... Dark Brown

Religious denominations { Church of England..... Yes
 Presbyterian..... Yes
 Wesleyan..... Yes
 Baptist or Congregationalist..... Yes
 Other Protestants..... Yes
 (Denomination to be stated.)
 Roman Catholic..... Yes
 Jewish..... Yes

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him*..... Fit..... for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date..... Aug 13th 1915.....
 Place..... Victoria B.C......
 Medical Officer..... [Signature]

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."
 NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Fred Groves Kenley..... having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

.....[Signature]..... (Signature of Officer)

Date..... Aug 14 1915

..... [Signature]..... Lt. Col.
 Commanding 1st Canadian Trenchers C.E.F.



Canadian troops participated in the following operations on the Western Front from 1914 to 1918:

- The Battles of Ypres, April-May 1915
- The Actions at Festubert and Givenchy, May-June 1915
- The St. Éloi Craters, March-April 1916
- The Battle of Mount Sorrel, June 2-3 1916
- The Battles of the Somme, July-November 1916
- The Battle of Vimy Ridge, 9-12 April 1917
- The Battles of the Scarpe, April-May 1917
- The Capture of Hill 70, 15-25 August 1917
- The Battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres), Canadian battles from October 26 to November 10 1917
- The Battle of Amiens, August 8-11 1918
- The Battle of Arras, August 26-September 3 1918
- The Canal du Nord and Cambrai, September 27 -October 11 1918
- The Capture of Valenciennes, November 1-2 1918.

The Western Front ran some 400 miles through Belgium and France.

