



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembering those who died, 1914-1918

*Written by John Burchill, President
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One hundred and ten years ago, on August 4, 1914, Canada entered World War 1 when the United Kingdom declared war on Germany. As part of the British Dominion, the declaration of war automatically brought Canada into the conflict.

A total of 143 members of the Winnipeg Police enlisted for service between 1914 and 1918. Of those, 29 were killed and 40 wounded. Eighty-two returned to active duty. Lest we forget.



Private William Joseph Alderson was born in England in 1890. After two years with the Saskatoon Police he joined the Winnipeg Police on May 20, 1914. He resigned from the Winnipeg Police on August 20, 1914, to join the 8th Battalion (90th Regiment, Winnipeg Rifles) shortly after war was declared. His Battalion sailed to England in October 1914 and disembarked in France in February 1915. From 22 April - 25 May 1915 his unit fought to control the Flemish town of Ypres in western Belgium. It was during this battle that the German's used mass poison gas on the Western Front. After several engagements Alderson was killed on June 3, 1915 when a "coal-box" shell exploded at the door of his dug out in Givenchy. Death was instantaneous. He was buried in an orchard behind the trenches. His name is inscribed in the Vimy Memorial along with 11,000 other Canadian soldiers whose bodies were not recovered.



Sergeant Michal Duffy was born in Ireland in 1890. After three years with the Royal Irish Constabulary he joined the Winnipeg Police on September 16, 1913. He resigned from the Winnipeg Police on July 31, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion, which was mobilized in Brandon. He embarked for Britain in November 1915 and disembarked in France in March 1916 as part of the 1st Canadian Machine Gun Corps. In July 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal (MM) for bravery in the field, followed by the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), the second highest award for gallantry in action (after the Victoria Cross). Duffy was killed on the morning of October 1, 1918, after being hit in the head with an enemy bullet while in charge of a machine gun crew in the vicinity of Belcourt. He was buried in the Sancourt British Cemetery, about 10 miles south east of Douai, France.



Sergeant Henry Clair Gear, born in England in 1884, joined the Winnipeg Police on June 10, 1912. Prior to joining the police Gear had worked as a teamster for a Cortage Company in Winnipeg. He resigned from the Winnipeg Police on August 12, 1915, to join the 78th Battalion (Winnipeg Grenadiers). Gear embarked for England in May 1916 and disembarked in France in September 1916. While in the front line trenches, Gear was struck in the head by an enemy sniper's bullet. While he was evacuated to the No. 11 Canadian Field Ambulance, he succumbed to his injuries on January 29, 1917. He was buried in the Quatre-Vents Military Cemetery in France, a hamlet about 2 kilometres south-east of Estree-Cauchy 16 kilometres north-west of Arras.



Private Walter Crawley, born in 1890 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, joined the Winnipeg Police as an elevator operator on March 25, 1913. He resigned from the Winnipeg Police on June 6, 1915, to join the 61st Overseas Battalion. He embarked for England in April 1916 and disembarked in France in August 1916, where he joined the 88th (Manitoba) Battalion. The 88th Battalion was involved in the Somme offensive, a major battle of the First World War fought by the armies of the British Empire and the French Third Republic against the German Empire, between July 1 and November 18, 1916 on both sides of the Somme river in France. Crawley was killed in action near Courcellette on October 25, 1916. His name is inscribed in the Vimy Memorial, along with the names of over 11,000 Canadian soldiers who were posted as 'missing, presumed dead'.



Corporal Frederick Robert Cuffley was born in England in 1887. After serving for five years with the London Metropolitan Police from 1908-1913, Cuffley joined the Winnipeg Police on May 8, 1913. He resigned from the Winnipeg Police on June 23, 1915 to join the 61st Battalion with Albert Griffiths and Frederick Pope. Cuffley never made it overseas, and drowned in the Red River on July 26, 1915. He was buried in the military section of Brookside Cemetery.



Sergeant James Jarvis Geddes born in Scotland in 1890. He joined the Winnipeg Police on December 11, 1911 and resigned on July 31, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion as part of Cameron Highlanders of Canada. He was transferred to the 43rd Battalion and left for England in October 1915. In February 1916 he embarked for France where his unit fought as part of the 9th Canadian Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders. He received multiple gunshot wounds in the field and was evacuated to the No. 24 General Hospital in Etaples, France. After recovering sufficiently he was discharged from hospital in June 1916 and returned to his unit. He was killed in action near Courcellette, the Somme, on October 8, 1916. He was buried in the Regina Trench Cemetery, 5 miles north east of Albert, France.



Sergeant John Gingles was born in Ireland in 1889. He joined the Winnipeg Police on February 25, 1913, and resigned on July 31, 1915, for overseas service with the 78th Battalion (Winnipeg Grenadiers). Prior to the outbreak of war Gingles had been a member of the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers, which were placed on active service on August 6, 1914, for local protection duties. Gingles embarked for England in May 1916 and disembarked in France in August 1916. He died on November 20, 1916 – instantly killed by shrapnel from an enemy shell, while on duty in Vancouver Trench on the Somme, near Courcellette. He was buried in Regina Trench Cemetery, five miles north east of Albert, France, along with fellow Winnipeg Police officers Geddes and Rutledge.



Private John Gregson was born in 1891 in Scotland. He joined the Winnipeg Police on April 18, 1911, and resigned on July 31, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion. He was one of fourteen officers to resign on the same day, seven of whom were killed in action including Duffy, Geddes, Gingles, Holmes, McLeod and Templeton). He disembarked in England in October 1915 and was transferred to the 8th Battalion in March 1916 for service in France and Belgium. He was killed by enemy shell fire on June 14, 1916, while on a voluntary consolidating party at Mount Sorrel, in the Ypres Salient, two miles east of Ypres, Belgium. His name is inscribed in the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The memorial has the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Ypres Salient during the war.



Private Albert Edward Griffiths was born in England in 1881. He joined the Winnipeg Police on December 6, 1909 and resigned on June 24, 1915, to join the 61st Battalion. He had previously served in the military for five years with the 3rd Dragoon Guards. He embarked for Britain in April 1916 and disembarked in France in August 1916, where he joined the 27th (City of Winnipeg) Battalion. One of the most notable battles the 27th Battalion participated in was the Battle of Courcelette in September 1916. This battle marked the first time tanks were used in warfare. Griffiths was killed in the trenches at Courcelette on October 3, 1916. His body was not recovered for burial. His name is inscribed in the Vimy Memorial, along with the names of over 11,000 Canadian soldiers who were posted as ‘missing, presumed dead’.



Sergeant Donald Henderson was born in 1885 in Scotland. He joined the Winnipeg Police on April 10, 1912 and resigned on July 23, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion. He embarked for England in October 1915 and was transferred to the 8th Battalion in March 1916 for service in France. While on duty with 8th Battalion he was wounded in the face by an enemy shell on April 28, 1917, just in front of the German wire. He was evacuated to the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, which was located within a few miles of the Front. He died three days later and was buried at the Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, nine miles north west of Arras, France.



Private Robert Bruce Holmes was born in 1884 in Scotland. He joined the Winnipeg Police on March 2, 1914 and resigned on July 31, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion. He had previously served in the military for three years with the 4th Battalion Royal Scots. He embarked for England in October 1915 and was transferred to the 8th Battalion in March 1916 for service in France. While on duty with 8th Battalion Holmes was killed on June 14, 1916 in the trenches at The Bluff, Ypres. His body was not recovered for burial. His name is inscribed in the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The memorial has the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Ypres Salient during the war.



Corporal James Courage Hunter was born in 1886 in Scotland. He joined the Winnipeg Police on August 25, 1909 and resigned on July 6, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion as part of Cameron Highlanders of Canada. He arrived in England in November 1915 and was 43rd Battalion. In February 1916 he embarked for France. He was killed in action on March 31, 1916, while on duty with the 43rd Battalion in Bay 5, Trench B.2, Ypres Salient. He was shot through the head and instantly killed by a bullet from an enemy sniper's rifle. His body was not recovered for burial. His name is inscribed in the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The memorial has the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Ypres Salient during the war.



Sergeant Walter Edward Keyes was born in 1890 in England. Keyes was a saddler by trade and joined the Winnipeg Police on August 3, 1915 and resigned on March 31, 1916 to join the 200th Battalion. He disembarked in England in May 1917 and was transferred to the 11th Battalion. In September 1917 he was transferred again to the 107th Pioneer Battalion for service in France and Flanders. "Pioneers" were soldiers employed to perform engineering and construction tasks. While on duty with the 107th Pioneer Battalion, supplying working parties to forward area in Loos, he was killed on February 28, 1918. He was buried in the Aix-Noulette Communal Cemetery Extension, 4 miles west of Lens, France.



Lance Corporal Archibald MacDonald was born in 1886 in Scotland. He previously served in the military for six years with the Royal Argyll and Bute in Scotland. He joined the Winnipeg Police on April 19, 1911 and resigned on July 20, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion as part of Cameron Highlanders of Canada. He was transferred to the 43rd Battalion and left for England in September 1915. In February 1916 he embarked for France where his unit fought as part of the 9th Canadian Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders. MacDonald was killed in the trenches east of Zillebeke, Belgium, on June 11, 1916. Along with John Milton, who was also killed in the trenches in Zillebeke, he was buried in the Maple Copse Military Cemetery in Zillebeke, two miles south east of Ypres, Belgium.



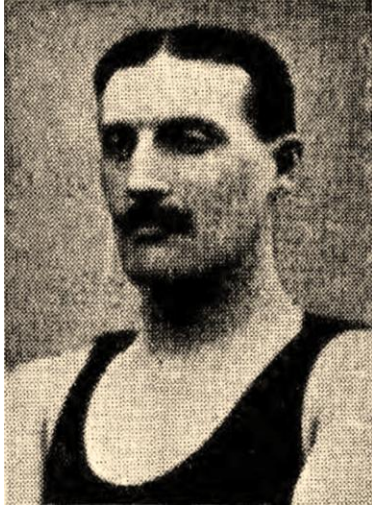
Squad Sergeant William MacDonald was born in 1893 in Scotland. After serving for one year with the Dumbortonshire Constabulary he joined the Winnipeg Police on November 14, 1913. He resigned on December 31, 1915 for service overseas with Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment. In October 1916 he disembarked in England and proceeded to France in March 1917. In May 1918 he was awarded the Military Medal (MM) for bravery in the field. He was killed by a shell on October 9, 1918, just a month before the end of the war, while advancing with his regiment through the village of Bertry in Northern France. He was buried in the Highland British Cemetery, one mile south of Le Cateau, France.



Private Alexander MacLeod was born in Scotland in 1885. After serving with the Glasgow Police Force for 4 years he joined the Winnipeg Police on January 19, 1914. He was one of fourteen officers to resign on July 31, 1915 to join the 79th Battalion. He was transferred to the 43rd Battalion and left for England in October 1915. In February 1916 he embarked for France where his unit fought as part of the 9th Canadian Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders. While on duty with the 43rd Battalion he was shot in the leg by friendly fire (accidentally) while quartered in the Cavalry Barracks, Ypres, on July 12, 1916. He was taken to the No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station when he died four days later. He was buried at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery one mile south west of Poperinghe, Belgium.



Company Sergeant Major John McCarthy was born in Ireland in 1888. After serving for three years with the Royal Irish Constabulary he joined the Winnipeg Police on April 29, 1912. He resigned on August 10, 1915 to join the 79th Battalion. He embarked for England in October 1915 and was transferred to the 8th Battalion in March 1916 for service in France. While on duty with 8th Battalion McCarthy was reported missing and declared killed in action on April 28, 1917, during the attack and capture of Arleux-en-Gohelle in Northern France. His name is inscribed in the Vimy Memorial along with 11,000 other Canadian soldiers whose bodies were not recovered.



Private William Melville was born in Scotland in 1886. He was a member of the Edinburgh City Police and later the Metropolitan Police, before joining the Winnipeg Police on March 27, 1913. He had been a member of the Grenadier Guards and was placed on the reserve list when he emigrated to Canada. With the outbreak of war he was called back for duty with the 1st Grenadier Guards and returned to Scotland on August 17, 1914. He was sent to France in September and then to Belgium in October 1914, where he was involved significantly at the First Battle of Ypres. On January 12, 1915, he became entangled in barbed wire around a German trench and sustained serious wounds. He was removed to hospital but returned to his regiment on March 5, only to die on March 13, 1915, after suffering more wounds at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. He was buried in Merville Cemetery in France.



Sergeant John Milton was born in Scotland in 1890. After serving with the Renfrewshire Constabulary in Scotland for 2 years and with the Toronto Police Department for 17 months, Milton joined the Winnipeg Police on March 11, 1913. He resigned on July 22, 1915, to join the 79th Battalion as part of Cameron Highlanders of Canada. He was transferred to the 43rd Battalion and left for England in September 1915. In February 1916 he embarked for France where his unit fought as part of the 9th Canadian Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders. Milton was killed instantly by enemy machine gun fire on August 1, 1916, while on duty rebuilding the parapet of trench 57 east of Zillebeke in Belgium. He was buried at the Maple Copse Military Cemetery, two miles east of Ypres, Belgium



Lieutenant Joseph Outerson was born in Scotland in 1883. He joined the Winnipeg Police on February 16, 1907, and resigned on October 31, 1915, for overseas service with the 78th Battalion (Winnipeg Grenadiers). Prior to the outbreak of war Outerson had been a member of the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers, which were placed on active service on August 6, 1914, for local protection duties. In October 1915 Outerson was commissioned as a Lieutenant and embarked for England in May 1916 and disembarked in France in August 1916. While leading his platoon from Regina Trench to Desire Trench to relieve the 38th Battalion in Courcellette, France, Outerson was shot in the heart by an enemy rifle bullet on November 19, 1916. He died instantly. He was buried in the Bapaume Post Military Cemetery, north east of Albert, France.



Sergeant Arthur Ernest Payne, born in England in 1890. He joined the Winnipeg Police on August 6, 1914 and resigned on May 19, 1915 to join the 79th Battalion. He embarked for overseas service in February 1916, eventually being assigned to the 9th Canadian Machine Gun Company. He was awarded the Military Medal (posthumously) for bravery in the field, followed by the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was killed instantly on October 5, 1916, when the dugout he was occupying, south of Courcelette, France, was blown in by a high explosive shell. He was buried along the Bapaume Le Sars Road, about 300 yards south east from Courcelette. His name is inscribed in the Vimy Memorial along with 11,000 other Canadian soldiers whose bodies were not recovered.



Sergeant Frederick Henry Pope was born in England in 1888. He joined the Winnipeg Police on June 1, 1909, and resigned on June 17, 1915, to join the 61st Battalion. He embarked for England in April 1916. Upon arrival he was transferred to the 11th Reserve Battalion, then the 32nd Battalion, and finally to the 52nd Battalion for service in France in August 1916, where his unit fought as part of the 9th Canadian Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division. Pope was killed on January 19, 1917, while serving with the 52nd Battalion. He was shot through the head and instantly killed while in the trenches south east of Neuville-Saint Vaast in Northern France. He was buried in the Maroeuil British Cemetery, 3 miles north west of Arras, France.



Sergeant James William Rutledge born in Ireland in 1881. He joined the Winnipeg Police on May 2, 1905. He resigned on July 21, 1915 to join the 79th Battalion as part of Cameron Highlanders of Canada. He was transferred to the 43rd Battalion and left for England in December 1915. In February 1916 he embarked for France where his unit fought as part of the 9th Canadian Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders. While on duty with the 43rd Battalion he was killed during an attack north of Courcelette, France, on October 8, 1916. Along with fellow Winnipeg Police officers Geddes and Gingles, he was buried in Regina Trench Cemetery, five miles north east of Albert, France.



Private Alexander Tocher Shand was born in Scotland in 1889. After serving for two years with the Aberdeenshire Constabulary he joined the Winnipeg Police on April 9, 1913. He resigned from the Winnipeg Police on March 31, 1915 to join the 43rd Battalion. He was transferred to the 16th Battalion in July 1915 for service in France. He was reported missing in action on October 8, 1916. It was later determined he had been taken prisoner and died of gunshot wounds to the left thigh, groin and breast while being held as a prisoner of war at Parchim, Germany, on October 25, 1916. He was buried at Ohlsdorf-Hamburg Central Cemetery, five miles west of Hamburg.



Sergeant James Swanson was born in Scotland in 1885. He had previously served for seven years with the 5th Seaforth Highlanders in Scotland, before joining the Winnipeg Police on December 28, 1910. He resigned on September 1, 1915 to join the 79th Battalion as part of the Cmaeron Highlands of Canada. He disembarked in England in October 1916, where he transferred to the 17th Battalion and then the 179th Battalion. In July 1917 he was transferred again to the 43rd Battalion for service in France. While on duty with the 43rd Battalion he was he was killed in action on August 8, 1918. He was posthumously awarded the Croix de Guerre (France) for acts of heroism involving combat with the enemy. He was buried at Mezieres Communal Cemetery Extension in Mezieres, France.



Lance Corporal William Wylie Templeton was born in Scotland in 1890. After serving with the Dumfriesshire Constabulary he joined the Winnipeg Police on May 27, 1913. He was one of fourteen officers to resign on July 31, 1915 for military service. He joined the 79th Battalion as part of the Cameron Highlanders of Canada. He was transferred to the 43rd Battalion and left for England in October 1915. In February 1916 he embarked for France where his unit fought as part of the 9th Canadian Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders. On April 5, 1916 he received multiple gunshot wounds in the field and was evacuated to the #24 General Hospital in Etaples, France. From there he was transferred to the Bethnal Green Military Hospital in London, where he died from his wounds on June 3, 1916. He was buried at the Dryfesdale Cemetery in Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.



Private Leslie Byatt Walker was born in England in 1884. He joined the Winnipeg Police on September 17, 1914 and resigned on August 11, 1915 to join the 79th Battalion. He was transferred to the 11th Reserve Battalion in October 1915 and then to the 8th Battalion in May 1916 for service in France. While on duty with the 8th Battalion he was reported wounded, missing in action and presumed killed on June 14, 1916. His body was never recovered. His name is inscribed in the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. The memorial has the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Ypres Salient during the war.



Private David Watson was born in Ireland in 1889. He joined the Winnipeg Police on June 28, 1915 and resigned on October 31, 1915 to join the 78th Battalion. Prior to the outbreak of war Watson (and Gingles and Outerson) had been members of the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers, which were placed on active service on August 6, 1914, for local protection duties. Watson embarked for England in May 1916 and disembarked in France in August 1916. While on duty with the 78th Battalion Watson was killed in action on April 9, 1917. His name is inscribed in the Vimy Memorial, along with the names of over 11,000 Canadian soldiers who were posted as 'missing, presumed dead' in France.



Company Sergeant Major John Watson was born in Scotland in 1869. He spent 21 years with the Royal Scots Fusiliers, joining the military reserves in Canada. He also joined the Winnipeg Police as a garage floorman on June 12, 1913. He resigned on August 14, 1914 when he was called-up for active duty with the the 10th Battalion, 106th Regiment (Winnipeg Light Infantry). The unit was assembled at Valcartier, Quebec, and sailed for the United Kingdom with the first Canadian contingent in late 1914. He received serious gunshot wounds to the legs on May 27, 1915. He was evacuated to the No. 3 General Hospital in Le Treport, France, where he died of his wounds on June 27, 1915. He was buried at the Le Treport Military Cemetery in Normandy, France.

