

**Name: McMurphy, Archibald**

**Rank: Sgt**

**Service Number: 6523**

Archibald (Archie) McMurphy was born in Lobo Township to Archibald McMurphy and Mary McLachlin. When he attested in the Canadian Rifles on December 1901 for the South African War he was living at 564 York Street London as a lodger. He states on his papers that he joined the 26<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Battalion in June of that year. The South African War (1899-1902) or, as it is also known, the *Boer War*, marked Canada's first official dispatch of troops to an overseas war. After the war Veterans from Canada who had served in the Boer were eligible for land entitling them to 320 acres without fees providing they complied with the homestead regulations. In 1908 while in Swift Current Sask. he applied for a land grant also known as a Volunteer Bounty Land Grant. It is not known what the outcome of this application was as in many cases the grant was often not taken or was sold to others.

By 1911 at the age of 32 he is living with his family in London working in a factory and is now the brother-in-law of Mooney Gibson, a famous Pittsburg Pirates ball player.

When he attested in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the 20 September 1914 at Valcartier Quebec he listed butcher as an occupation and next of kin as his father who lived in Mount Brydges.

He was killed in action on the 15 June 1915 at Givenchy when the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion advanced against the German line. Because their flanks were exposed, they were forced to fall back to their original trench "with what remained of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadians". This was the third phase during the Second Battle of Artois that lasted from 9 May to 18 June 1915. Since his body was never recovered or identified, he is honoured on the Vimy Memorial. Other soldiers from Strathroy-Caradoc to die in this battle include Fritz Robinson and Arthur Holderness.

## FAMILY

County of <i>Middlesex</i>	
	017563 No. 31
When Born	<i>15<sup>th</sup> March 1878</i>
Name	<i>Archibald McMurphy</i>
Sex (M. or F.)	<i>M.</i>
Name and Surname of Father	<i>Archibald McMurphy</i>
Name and maiden surname of Mother	<i>Mary McLachlin</i>
Rank or profession of Father	<i>Farmer</i>
Signature, description and residence of Informant	<i>R. R. Smith M.D. Komoka</i>
When Registered	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> June 1878</i>
Name of Accoucher	<i>R. R. Smith M.D. Komoka</i>
Signature of Registrar	<i>E. Barclay</i>
REMARKS	<i>✓</i>

This Birth Registration states that Archie was born on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1878 to Archibald McMurphy (Farmer) and Mary McLachlin.

The form was registered in Komoka by Dr. R. R. Smith.

1881: The McMurphy's are listed as living in Lobo Township and Archie has a sister Margaret aged 1.


1891: Still living in Lobo Township, Archie is now 13 and has two more siblings Dougald (9) and John (2). His father is a merchant at a dry goods and grocery store.

1901: Archie has moved out and is a Lodger living in London ON at 564 York Street with the Siggins Family. The rest of the McMurphy's have also moved to London and are living at 21 Mount Pleasant St. This includes his parents, and sister Margaret with her husband George Gibson and son Gordon. Archie's brother John is also living there along with a new sibling Anna (8).

1911: Archie has moved back in with his parents and is living at 115 Wilson Ave. London ON, which is just around the corner from the Mount Pleasant address. His brother John and sister Anna are also living there.

## SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

Archie did two tours in the Boer War. He first enlisted in 1899 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Service Battalion R.C.R. On 21 August 1900 he was invalided to England and then discharged 10 days later. He next enlisted December 1901 and was discharged at the end of war in 1902. Below is a copy of his attestation papers for his second tour in the South African War.


**CANADIAN YEOMANRY.**  
**ATTESTATION PAPER.**

No.
Folio

" 189 " *Private A. McMurphy*

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**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**

1. What is your name ?..... *Archibald M<sup>c</sup> Murphy*
2. In what Township or Parish, and in or near what town and in what County or Country were you born ?.....  
 In or near what Town of *London*  
 in the County of *Middlesex*  
 in the Province of *Ontario*
3. \* What is the name of your next of kin ?..... *Father Arch. McMurphy*
4. \* What is the address of your next of kin ?..... *11 Mt. Pleasant Ave. London*
5. What is your age ?..... *23* Years *9* Months.
6. What is your Trade or Calling ?..... *Carpenter*

You are hereby warned that if you give a wilfully false answer to any of the following five (5) questions you are liable to 2 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

7. Are you an Apprentice ?..... *Yes*
8. Are you Married ?..... *No*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia ?..... *Yes*
10. Have you ever served in His Majesty's Imperial Army, Marines, Navy or Indian Forces, or in any Corps of the Active Militia of Canada, or North-West Mounted Police ?..... *Yes* *in 2<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex Battalion*  
*June 1901 till December 1901*

If so, state particulars of former Service, and the cause of Discharge, and produce Certificate of Discharge. Men belonging to the Imperial Army Reserve, or absentees therefrom, are not to be enlisted.

11. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service, or for His Majesty's Indian Forces, the Active Militia of Canada, or North-West Mounted Police ?..... *No*
12. Do you understand the nature and terms of your Engagement ?..... *Yes*
13. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Yeomanry for a period of 12 months or until the termination of the present war in South Africa. *Yes*

Signature of Man. *A. McMurphy*  
 Witness *A. E. Monro*

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**
*A. McMurphy* } Signature of Man.
*A. E. Monro* } Signature of Witness.
**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**
*[Signature]*  
*DEC 1*

Description of *Archibald M. Murphy*

Age apparently *23 yrs. 9 months*  
 Height *5* feet *9* inches.  
 Breast measure- { Minimum *35* inches.  
 ment *36 1/2* { Maximum expansion *38* inches.  
 Complexion *Fair*  
 Eyes *Blue*  
 Hair *Fair brown*  
 Any distinctive mark *High nose on forehead*  
 Religious denomination *Presby. Union*

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.**

I have examined the above-named man and find that he has no Rupture or serious Varicocele or Mark or any old Wound or Ulcer adhering to the bone; he is free from Varicose Veins of the Legs, and has the full power of Motion of the Joints and Limbs. He is well formed, and has no Scrofulous Affection of the Glands, Scald Head or other inveterate Cutaneous Eruptions. He has no incipient Chest Disease. His respiration is easy, his Lungs elastic and appear to be sound. The Fingers of both hands, and Toes of both feet, are perfect; he has no deformity, bad corns or bunions, and he has the perfect use of both Eyes and both Ears, and has no impediment of speech; his teeth are sound. His general appearance is healthy, and he possesses strength sufficient to enable him to undergo the fatigue to which Soldiers are liable, mounted or dismounted. He does not bear any marks of medical or surgical treatment. I consider him fit for His Majesty's Service. He has the following particular Marks or Scars, viz.:-

Signature of Medical Officer. { *Chas. Bellin Major*

Dated at *London Ont.*  
 this *10<sup>th</sup>* day of *Decr.* 190*1*

*A. M. S.*

The above-named Recruit has satisfied me that he is a \* *Fair* rider and  
 a \* *Good* shot, and being qualified in other respects, I have enlisted him.

\* Insert whether "fair" or "good."

*John W. Bell*  
 Recruiting Officer.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVING OFFICER.**

..... having been finally approved and inspected by me this  
 day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, and I certify  
 that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation, and I accordingly approve and appoint him to the  
 Canadian Yeomanry.

Date.....

Signature of  
 Approving Officer.

## WWI SERVICE RECORD

In 1904 Archie was enrolled at the Canadian School of Musketry in Ottawa for military training.

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Particulars</b></i>
	6523, Pte McMurphy Archibald, 1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Canadian Infantry, Theatre of War – France, Next of Kin Mr. Archibald McMurphy Mount Brydges, Ont.
1 Sept 1914	Medical Exam - 34 years 6 months old, 5' 10 ½ " 175 lbs, Dark Complexion, blue eyes, dark brown hair, Scar on forehead,
20 Sept 1914	Butcher from Mount Brydges ON attests in 1 <sup>st</sup> Battaion CEF at Valcartier PQ, previous military experience 28 months in South Africa and 16 years with Canadian Militia. Note date of birth is not correct on Attestation Paper.
15 Jun 1915	Killed in Action
3 Aug 1922	Medal Card – 1914-15 Star, Victory Medal and British War medal sent to Father , Plaque and Scroll to father, Memorial Cross to Mother, Scroll and Plaque sent 26 May 1921 and 3 Aug 1922 respectively



# ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 6522

Folio.

## CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

### QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

1. What is your name?..... 6522 Archibald MacMurphy
  2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... Toronto Ontario
  3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... A McMurphy
  4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... 721 Dundas Street West
  5. What is the date of your birth?..... 22nd 1st 1885
  6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... (Dutchman) 35
  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?..... Yes
  10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.. If so, state particulars of former Service. S. Africa 28 months 16 yrs Canadian Militia
  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
- Archibald MacMurphy (Signature of Man).  
J. McDonald (Signature of Witness).

### DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Archibald MacMurphy, 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 Sept 20 1914. Archibald MacMurphy (Signature of Recruit)  
J. McDonald (Signature of Witness)

### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Archibald MacMurphy, 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 Sept 20 1914. Archibald MacMurphy (Signature of Recruit)  
J. McDonald (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 this 22 day of Sept 1914.

James (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

J. McDonald (Approving Officer)

5th Batt

Description of Mc Murphy Archie on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 34 years 6 months.  
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height 5 ft. 10 1/2 ins.

Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 40 ins.  
Range of expansion 4 ins.

Complexion Dark

Eyes Blue

Hair Dark Brown

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

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.)

3 Scar. marks left arm.  
scar on fore head

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 Sept 1 1914.

Place Valcartier

\*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.

Archie Mc Murphy 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.

Date Sept 22 1914.

Robert G. Cal (Signature of Officer)

5th Batt

6523  
Number.....Rank.....  
Surname.....McMURPHY.....  
Christian Names.....Archibald.....  
Unit.....1st Bn. Can. Inf.....Theatre of War.....France.....  
Dates of Service.....  
Remarks.....  
Latest Address.....Mr. Archibald McMurphy.....  
.....Mount Brydges, Ont.....  
Roll No. B Page 671

H.Q. 649-M-1221. H.A.Q.  
McMurphy, Sgt. A., #6523, 1st Bn.  
M. & D. (Father) Mr. Archibald McMurphy,  
Mount Brydges, Ont.  
P. & S. (Mother) ditto.  
Mem. C. (Mother) Mrs. Archibald McMurphy,  
(address as above)  
Scroll Desp. 261921 Regt. No. 244845  
Eleg. for star Sgt. 1st Bn. AUG 3 - 1922 43751  
" " U.M. 38619  
" " B.W.M.  
mf.



NAME <i>M. Murphy Archie</i>		H. Q. FILE No. 649-
RANK AND CORPS <i>Sergh. 1st Battalion</i>		REGT'L. NO. <i>6523</i>
CABLE	NATURE OF CASUALTY	
NO. DATE	NO. <i>1782</i>	
<i>62616 27/6/15</i>	<i>Killed in action June 15th</i>	
<i>A. J. B. 2090A</i>	<i>Killed in action June 15th 1915</i>	
<i>Lower 25-7-15</i>	<i>(Rec. 10-4-17)</i>	
SURNAME. <i>M. Murphy</i>		CARD NO. <i>649-M-1821</i>
CHRISTIAN NAMES <i>Archie</i>		FOLL.
REG'L. NO. <i>6523</i>	RANK <i>Pte.</i>	
UNIT <i>1st.</i>	<i>Bn.</i>	
FORMER CORPS <i>S. A. (28 mos) (16 yrs) Can mil.</i>		
NEXT OF KIN.		CHANGE OF ADDRESS
NAMES IN FULL <i>M. Murphy. A. (Senior)</i>		
RELATIONSHIP TO SOLDIER <i>not stated</i>		
ADDRESS <i>Mt. Brydges. Ont.</i>		
COUNTRY OF BIRTH <i>Canada Homoka Ont.</i>	DATE <i>Mar. 15th 1880</i>	
PLACE OF ATTESTATION <i>Valcartier. P. Q.</i>	DATE <i>Sept 22nd 1914</i>	
L. L. 6945, M. & D. 6994		M. F. W. 22. 100M. -8-18. H. Q. 1772-30-330.

No. <i>6523</i>		RANK <i>Pte.</i>	NAME <i>Mc Murphy, A</i>
T. O. S.		UNIT <i>26th Regt Middlesex Light Inf.</i>	
		<i>duty at Regimental Hqrs</i>	
M. D. /			
PAID FROM	PAID TO	SIG. OR REC'T	PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, DISCHARGES, ETC.
1914	1914		PARTICULARS
<i>Aug 12</i>	<i>Aug 21</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>shown as Sergh.</i>
<i>Sept 22</i>	<i>Sept 31</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>appears on 1st Bn. paylists</i>
			<i>Oct. paylist.</i>
UNIT SAILED			
OCT 3 1914			

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1st Bn 1st Bde C.C.F.  
 Regimental No. 6523 Rank Sgt Name A. McMurphy  
 Enlisted (a) 9/22/14 Terms of Service (a) Service war Service reckons from (a) 22 SEP 1914  
 Date of promotion to present rank } Date of appointment to lance rank } Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. }  
 Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
20/6/15	1st Bn	Killed in action	Field	15/6/15 23213	File 80 info CAPT. OFFICER IN RECORDS CANADIAN SECTION C. I. Q.

Rank and Name MC MURPHY, Archie

Regimental No. 6523

Unit 1st Battalion.

Date of enlistment 20 Sept. 1914.

Place of birth Ontario

Married (Yes or No) No.

If in Permanent Force

Name and Address of Next-of-kin

A. McMurphy (Father)

Mt Brydges, Ont..

Date and place of discharge

Reason for discharge

Character on discharge

Promotions or appointments

N/E. R.B. NS

File R.L.

Category K. 2

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date	From whom received				
26.6.15	62.94/101	Killed in action		15.6.15	O.N. II. 1P 27/15 1st Bn.



# 6523  
**MEDICAL HISTORY SHEET.**

Surname M<sup>c</sup> Murphy Christian Name Archie No Card  
652

<p>Examined { on <u>1</u> day of <u>Sept</u> 191<u>4</u>          at <u>Valcartier P.Q.</u></p> <p>Birthplace { City or Town <u>Kamoka</u>          County <u>Middlesex Ont.</u></p> <p>Apparent age <u>34 yrs 6 mos</u></p> <p>Trade or occupation <u>Butcher</u></p> <p>Height <u>5</u> Feet <u>10 1/2</u> Inches</p> <p>Weight <u>175</u> Lbs.</p> <p>Chest measurement { Minimum <u>36</u> inches          Maximum expansion <u>40</u> inches</p> <p>Physical development <u>Good</u></p> <p>Small-Pox Marks <u>None</u></p> <p>Vaccination Marks { Arm Right Left          Number <u>3</u></p> <p>When Vaccinated last <u>1904</u></p> <p>(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease <u>None</u></p> <p><u>Scar on forehead</u></p> <p>(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection <u>None</u></p>	<p>Approved by <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Rank <u>Pl</u> M.O.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Fit or Unfit</th> <th>EXAMINED FOR RE-ENGAGEMENT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Result</th> <th>VACCINATIONS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>1904</u></td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Result</th> <th>ANTI-TYPHOID INOCULATIONS, ETC.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>Sept 1914</u></td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Fit or Unfit	EXAMINED FOR RE-ENGAGEMENT																									Date	Result	VACCINATIONS	<u>1904</u>												Date	Result	ANTI-TYPHOID INOCULATIONS, ETC.	<u>Sept 1914</u>											
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Enlisted on 22<sup>d</sup> day of Sept. 1914 at V. Cartier

	CORPS.	REG'T NUMBER.	HABITS.	DATE.
Joined on enlistment	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Bn C.E.F.</u>	<u>6523</u>		
Transferred to.. ..				

**EXAMINED OR DISCHARGED BY A MEDICAL BOARD.**

STATION.	DATE.	DISEASE.	RESULT.

N. B.—This sheet to be disposed of in accordance with instructions in the Regulations for Army Medical Service, on the man becoming non-effective; the date and cause being stated on next page.

M. F. B. 313.  
60M-8-14.  
H. Q. 1772-39-439.

Entries in Red Ink made from  
Attestation Sheets.

1715-15

[Signature]  
for D. D. M. S.

## Information from the Age Newspaper

**July 1 1915**

Part of the Honour Roll which listed wounded, dead and missing soldiers from the area.

Sergt.-Major ARCHIE McMURPHY. Sergt. McMurphy's father conducts a store at Mt. Brydges. Sergt. McMurphy was a brother-in-law of Mooney Gibson, famous Pittsburg ball player.

## Memorial – Vimy Ridge Grave Registration Report

McMURPHY, Serjt. Archie, 6523. 1st Bn. (Western Ontario Regt.). 15th June, 1915. Age 38. Son of Archie and Mary McMurphy.

## Information from the following sources

Ancestry.com – Birth Registration

Canadian War Museum. Canada and the South African War  
[http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/boer/boerwarhistory\\_e.shtml](http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/boer/boerwarhistory_e.shtml)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org>

Library and Archives Canada South African War, 1899-1902 - Service Files, Medals and Land Applications. Archibald McMurphy Regimental number 187

Library and Archives Canada - Census Records 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911