

Name: Runnalls, Richard Roy

Rank: Pte

Service Number: 802908



Richard Roy Runnalls was a farmer from Mount Brydges who attested in the 135th Btn on the 7 Feb 1916. He joined the 15th Battalion in the field on the 2 Dec 1916. On the 21st of Sept 1917 he was “dangerously wounded”, by shrapnel to his head, legs and ankle. He died of his wounds at the 6th Casualty Clearing Station on the 30th Sept 1917. He is buried in the Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

SERVICE RECORD

<i>Date</i>	<i>Particulars</i>
1 Aug 1897	Born Dawn Township Ontario
7 Feb 1916	Farmer from Mount Brydges ON attested in 135 th Btn at Strathroy ON, no previous military experience, 5'8", 145 lbs, dark complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, Methodist,
9 Aug 1916	Will completed leaving estate to father Richard T Runnalls.
22 Aug 1916	Embarked from Halifax NS for England on the SS Olympic
30 Aug 1916	Arrived Liverpool England
15 Oct 1916	Transferred to 134 th Btn at Witley England
15 Oct 1916	TOS 134 th Btn at Bramshott England
28 Nov 1916	Proceeded overseas for service with the 15 th Btn
29 Nov 1916	Joins base Depot 15 th Btn France
1 Dec 1916	Left for unit
2 Dec 1916	Joined 15 th Btn in the field
12 Dec 1916	To Division Grenade school
17 Feb 1917	Returned from Division Grenade School
21 Sept 1917	Shrapnel Wounds to head, legs and ankle to 6 th Casualty Clearing Station
21 Sept 1917	To hospital
23 Sept 1917	Dangerously wounded No 6 Casualty Clearing Station
30 Sept 1917	Died of wounds at 6 th Casualty Clearing Station
18 Mar 1922	Medal Card: not eligible for 1914-15 Star, Medals, decorations, scroll and plaque sent to Father - Mr Richard Runnalls RR#2 Mount Brydges ON
29 Dec 1952	Memorial Cross returned to stock

NAME:

REGT. NO.

REGT. NO. 802908

UNIT

H. Q. FILE NO

CONTENTS	DATE RECEIVED	TO WHOM FORWARDED	DATE FORWARDED	M. F. W. 2505 REFERENCE	NON-EFFECTIVE BY
1. AFFIDAVIT PAPER (M.F.W. 23, 133, or 51)					DEATH
2. CASUALTY FORM (M.F.W. 54 or A.F.B. 103)					Category
3. TRAINING HISTORY SHEET (M.F.W. 113)					
4. FIELD CONDUCT SHEET (M.F.W. 173 or A.F.B. 122)					
5. REGT. CONDUCT SHEET (M.F.B. 263 or A.F.B. 129)					
6. COMPANY CONDUCT SHEET (M.F.B. 263A or A.F.B. 121)					
7. MEDICAL HISTORY SHEET (M.F.B. 313 or A.F.B. 178)					DISCHARGE
8. DENTAL HISTORY SHEET (M.F.B. 465)					Category
9. MEDICAL REPORT (M.F.B. 227 or A.F.B. 179)					
10. MEDICAL EXAMINATION (M.F.W. 129)					
11. TRANSFER CLOTHING STATEMENT (M.F.W. 97 or D.O.S. 2)					
12. PROCEEDINGS, COURT OF INQUIRY (M.F.B. 303 or A.F.A. 2)					
13. DECLARATION, COURT OF INQUIRY (M.F.B. 259 or A.F.B. 115)					DESERTION
14. LAST PAY CERTIFICATE (M.F.W. 44)					
15. PROCEEDINGS ON DISCHARGE (M.F.W. 218 or A.F.B. 288)					
16. PARTICULARS OF CHARACTER (A.F.W. 3226)					
17. COPY OF PARCHMENT DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE (M.F.W. 39A)					
18. [illegible]					
19. [illegible]					
20. [illegible]					
21. [illegible]					
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96. [illegible]					
97. [illegible]					
98. [illegible]					

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 802908

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname?..... *Runnalls*
- 1a. What are your Christian names?..... *Richard Roy*
- 1b. What is your present address?..... *Mount Brydges Ont*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... *Dunn Township Ont*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... *Richard F. Runnalls*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... *P.O. Mount Brydges Ontario Canada*
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?..... *Father*
5. What is the date of your birth?..... *August 1st 1897*
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... *Fanner*
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 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*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Richard Roy Runnalls*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers 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, 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 *Feb 7th* 1916. *Richard Roy Runnalls* (Signature of Recruit)
G. B. Ashwell (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Richard Roy Runnalls*, 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 *Feb 7th* 1916. *Richard Roy Runnalls* (Signature of Recruit)
G. B. Ashwell (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 *Stantham* this *7th* day of *Feb* 1916

G. B. Ashwell (Signature of Justice)

A com. etc.

Runnalls.
Description of *Richard Roy Runnalls* on Enlistment.

Apparent Age... *18* years... *5* 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... *8* ins.

Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded... *35 1/2* ins.
Range of expansion... *4* ins.

Complexion... *dark*

Eyes... *blue*

Hair... *brun*

Religious denominations.
Church of England...
Presbyterian...
Methodist... *X*
Baptist or Congregationalist...
Roman Catholic...
Jewish...
Other denominations...
(Denomination to be stated.)

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... *Feb 7* 191*6* Place... *Strachan*
H. Borden
Ch. Car
Medical Officer.

*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.

Richard Roy Runnalls 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.

B. Borden W. C. (Signature of Officer)

Date... *8* *2-* 191*6*



135th O. S. Battalion, C. E. F.

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FORM OF WILL.

I, Richard Roy Runnalls (Name in full)

Regimental Number 802908 serving in 135th Battalion

of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, do hereby revoke all former Wills by me made and declare this to be my last Will.

I bequeath all my real estate unto

Nil.

Name and Address
of person or
persons to whom
it is to go.

absolutely, and my personal estate I bequeath to

Mr. Richard L. Runnalls,
Mt. Brydges,
Ont.

Name and Address
of person or
persons to receive
personal estate*
(See note).

Sole Executor

**IMPORTANT
NOTE**

This must be Signed
and Dated by
THE SOLDIER
HIMSELF.

this ninth day of August A. D. 191

Richard Roy Runnalls Signature of Soldier.

*N.B.—Personal estate includes pay, effects, money in bank, insurance policy, in fact everything except real estate.

Signed and acknowledged by the Testator as and for his last Will in the presence of us both present at the same time, who in his presence, at his request, and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses.

Signature of First Witness George H Bennett Corp

Address of Witness A Coy 135 Battalion C.E.F.

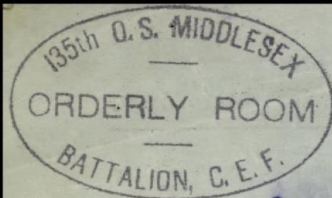
Occupation of Witness Soldier

THE TWO
WITNESSES
MUST
SIGN HERE

Signature of Second Witness R. Hewitt

Address of Witness B. Coy 135th Bn C.E.F.

Occupation of Witness Soldier



Fill in Only.—Unit, Number, Rank and Name.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

M. F. W. 54.
150M. 10-15.
H.Q. 1772-39-920.

Unit, Regiment or Corps 135th O. S. Battalion C.E.F.

Regimental No. 802908

Rank Private

Name Richard Roy Runnalls

C. E. F.

Enlisted (a) 7-2-16

Terms of Service (a) Period of the war Service reckons from (a) 7-2-16

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. 38, 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. 38, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				

Embarked - Canada

Halifax N.S. 22-8-16

Arrived - England

Liverpool

30-8-16

Transferred to 134th B'n. Witley

15-10-16. Reg. Ord. 266. 14-10-16.

Taken on strength of 134th B'n

Bramshott

15-10-16

Proceeded overseas for service with 15th Battalion

Witley

NOV 28 1916

ON STRENGTH 15TH BATTN CAN BASE DEPOT

LEFT FOR UNIT

JOINED UNIT

T. D. Owenade

29/11/16

1/12/16

3/12/16

12/2/17

17/2/17

B. Robson Lt. Col. 135th. Batt'n. Can. inf.

Port Suro. D. C. 234.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

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Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

Adj. for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D. Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) e.g. Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

P.T.O.

802908 Pte R R Runnalls

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				
24/9/17	bccs	S.W. Head	bccs	24/9/17	A 8481/9976
"	ICFA.	adm & to	"	"	A 8646/4515.
29/9/17	15 Am	Wounded to hospital	70	24/9/17	B 32/13
1/10/17	ho	Died of Wounds	bccs	30/9/17	Ritter
	bccs	Rec in Action			R.I. 16/24485.
					Th II.O 116 5/10/17
					French for Lt Col only
					bandeck. 3rd Schelw

J. K. H. H.

9

ORIGINAL
135th O. S. Battalion, C. E. F.

802908

MEDICAL HISTORY SHEET. ORIGINAL

Surname Richard RoyChristian Name Richard RoyExamined { on 7 day of February 1916
at Strathroy

Approved by

O. L. BerdanBirthplace { City or Town Slip Tlaown
County MiddlesexRank Pl. Capt. and M.O.Apparent age 18 yrs.Trade or occupation FarmerHeight 5 Feet 8 Inches.Weight 145 Lbs.Chest measurement { Minimum 29 inches.
Maximum expansion 33 1/2 inches.Physical development GoodSmall-Pox Marks noneVaccination Marks { Arm Right 0 Left 0
Number 0

When Vaccinated last

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or
previous disease none(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection
nilEnlisted on 7 day of Feb 1916 at Strathroy

	CORPS.	REG'T. NUMBER.	HABITS.	DATE.
Joined on enlistment	<u>135th Bn.</u>	<u>802908</u>	<u>Good.</u>	<u>7-2-16</u>
	<u>134th Bn. C. Inf.</u>	<u>802908</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>15-10-16. R.O. 266</u>
Transferred to	<u>15th. Battn.</u>	<u>NOV 28 1916</u>		<u>15th. Battn. Lt. Col.</u>
				<u>Capt. Adj.</u>
				<u>for O.C. 134th Bn. C.E.F.</u>

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.

12

el Roy

[illegible]

CHS Rank *Pte.* Name **RUNNALLS Richard Roy** ✓ Reg'l No. **802908** ✓
 Unit **135th. Bn.** If in perm. Corps, }
 What Unit? } Married or Single **Single** ✓
 Place and Date of Enlistment **Strathroy. Feb. 7th. 1916.** Place of Birth **Dawn Township, Ont.**
 Name and Address, Next-of-Kin **Richard Runnalls** ✓
~~xxxx~~ **P.O. Mount Brydges Ontario, Canada.** ✓ Relationship **Father.** ✓
 Assigned Pay Monthly \$ Payable to Relationship
 Separation Allowance \$ Payable to Relationship

N/E. R.B. No. *8677*
 File R. *25-8-2191*
 Category *P. 11*

Discharge, Date and Place

Reason

Character

H. W. & V., Ltd. - 7165-16.

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.				
ARRIVED IN ENGLAND S.S.OLYMPIC 30-8-16					
Oct. 14, 16	135th Bn.	Transf'd to 134th Bn	WITLEY	15-10-16	Pt. 2D. O. 268
18-10-16	134th	2nd Lt. on transfer from 135th	Bramshott	15-10-16	W/L DO # 234.
28-11-16	O.C. 134th	1st Lt. Transf'd to 15th Bn	Witley	28-11-16	Pt. 2D. O. 274.
2-12-16	O.C. 15th	Taken on Strength	Field	29-11-16	Pt. 2D. O. # 84
22-9-17	1st COR	Adm. 6 Cas Clg. Dn. Rang Wdtd.	"	21-9-17	C.L.A. 18-1 Not Stated
5-10-17	✓	Pres. reported dang. Wd. now reported (15BN) Died of Wounds {no. 6. 2nd Lt.	Field	30-9-17	X 15 BN - 2nd Lt. 5-10-17. C.L.A. 29-1. S.W. Head legs & ankles.

A.F.B. 103 CHECKED
15 DEC. 1916

A.F.B. 103 CHECKED
 15 DEC 1916

mlb.

Q

Number 802 908 Rank Pte

Surname RUNNALLS

Christian Name Richard Roy

Units 15th Bn Can Exp Theatre of War France

Date of Service 28-11-16. 10.

Remarks Father

Latest Address Mr. Richard Runnalls
R. P. # 2 Mount Brydges
Ont.

Roll No B Page 9445.

REGT'L. No. 802908

H. Q. FILE NO. 649

NAME

Runnalls Richard Roy

RANK AND CORPS

Plt. 15th Bn. (form. 135th Bn.)

FOLLOWS

NO.

CABLE

NO.

DATE

NATURE OF CASUALTY

FOLLOWS

¹⁸⁻⁶
 M. 6101 23-9-17 Dangerously wounded No 6 Cas. Clg.
 Stat. Sept. 2 Pst. 1917. ✓
¹⁷⁻⁸⁻¹²
 M 6155 6-10-17 Srew leg dang. wounded now
 M 6252 24-10-17 died of wounds # 6 Cas Clg Stat
 W.S.M. Sept. 30th 1917 ✓
 A.F.B. 2 090 A Killed of wounds rec'd. in action
 Rouen 5.10.17 at No 6. Cas. Clg. Station France 30.9.17
 noted 15.11.17

LIST No.	HOSPITAL	DATE OF ADMISSION	REMARKS
A18 ^L	No 6 Gas hl Station	2.1.9.17	Hk - Stated
A29 ^L	Previously report 30.9.17 dangerously wounded man		G.S.W. Head/legs & ankle reported as dead of wounds.

649-R-6512

Runnalls, Roy R. Pte., #802908 C.E.F. *B. Pte.*

Medals & Decs. *not elig. for star.* Father Mr. Richard Runnalls,
R.R.#2,
Mount Brydges, Ont *MB*

P. & S. Father Same as above.

Serial No 789595

X Mem. Cross Other Mrs. Mary Runnalls,
address as above.

X *Returned to stock 29/52*

Scroll Desc *Requ. No 227612*

Plaque Desc *MAR 18 1922* No *P33147*

md *Dec 14. 10. 20 (M) C 26862* *α*

SURNAME

CHRISTIAN NAME OR NAMES

FORM D.M.S. 1300

REG. NO.

RUNNALLS.

RANK

UNIT

R.R.

Co.

TROOP

802908

BATTY.

Pte.

HOSPITAL

1. C.O. 15.

DATE OF ADMISSION

6. C.C.S.

21-9-17.

1.

HOSP.

2.

HOSP.

3.

HOSP.

4.

HOSP.

DIAGNOSIS

1

Shell wd. Head Leg & ankle.

2.

3

*Previously reported dangerously wd. now
rep. Healed of Wounds. 30.9.17.
aw.*

DISPOSITION

C.L. 24-9-17. A18. Dang. Wd.

DATE

6.10.17. a 29.

REMARKS

A.M.D. 2 DEPT.
Bch. of D.G.M.S. O.M.F.C. London.

MILITIA AND DEFENCE
ASSIGNED PAY
 OVERSEAS CONTINGENTS

M. F. W. 12a.
 50m.—7-16
 1772—39—819.

Sheet No. 2.
 (Assignee)

R. J. Lunnalls

PAYMENTS

Name of Soldier *Richard Roy Lunnalls*
802908 *135 Batt*

I. I. Job 5470—Req. 6888.

Month.	Year.	Cheque No.	Amt.	Remarks
April	1916			
May				
June				
July				
Aug.				
Sept.		<i>R 29644</i>	<i>15.00</i>	
Oct.		<i>R 29622</i>	<i>15.</i>	
Nov.		<i>Q 29427</i>	<i>15.</i>	
Dec.		<i>Q 29431</i>	<i>15.</i>	
Jan.	1917	<i>P 41274</i>	<i>15.</i>	
Feb.		<i>P 47742</i>	<i>15.</i>	
March		<i>P 53110</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15.8.</i>
April		<i>P 4820</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15.8.</i>
May		<i>P 11406</i>	<i>15</i>	
June		<i>P 18486</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15.20</i>
July		<i>P 25047</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>2</i>
Aug.		<i>Q 32060</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>64x 30/9/17 195.00</i>
Sept.		<i>M 41017</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>closed 30/9/17</i>
Oct.		<i>cancelled R 47381</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1047381 cancelled 12/10/17</i>
Nov.				<i>12/10/17</i>
Dec.				
Jan.	1918		<i>195</i>	
Feb.				
March			<i>16</i>	
April				
May				
June				
July				

Date of Enlistment

MILITIA AND DEFENCE

Date of Assignment

Separation and Assigned Pay Branch

OVERSEAS CONTINGENTS

RATE OF SEPARATION ALLOWANCE

RATE OF ASSIGNMENT

PARTICULARS OF SEPARATION ALLOWANCE

PARTICULARS OF ASSIGNMENT

No.

802908

Rank

Pte

Promoted

Reverted

Discharge

Soldier's Name

Richard Roy Runnalls.

Battalion

135 Bn.

Beneficiary

Relationship

Address

Name

Richard T. Runnalls

Address

Mt. Brydges, Ont.

Change of Address

1

2

3

4

Date

Cheque
No.Amount
S/AAmount
A/P

Total

REMARKS

1917

195

195

Account closed 30-9-17 ESB 12-10-17
 no payments after Sept-
 Pensions notified 12-10-17
 Recd of wages 30-9-17

No. 802908 RANK Pa

NAME Rinnalls R. Roy

T. O. S. 7-2-16
(No. 33.82-6)

UNIT 135th Battalion - C. E. F.

M. D. 1

PAID FROM	PAID TO	SIG. OR REC'T	PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, DISCHARGES, ETC.	
			PARTICULARS	AUTHORITY
1916	1916.			
Feb 7.	Feb 29	✓		
mar.		✓		
april		✓		
may		✓		
June		✓		
July		✓		
Aug		n.	a. a. l. from 30-7-16 to 31-7-16	d. o. 195/171-8-16
				UNIT SAILED AUG 22 1916

MILITIA AND DEFENCE
 ASSIGNED PAY
 OVERSEAS CONTINGENTS

M. F. W. 12.
 50m.—6-16.
 H. Q. 1772-39-819.

To Whom *Richard J. Runnalls* By Whom Assigned *Runnalls Richard Roy*
 Address *Mr. Brydges* Regtl. No. *802908*
 Rank *Acty.*
 Corps *135th O.A. Bn. CEF.*
 Rate *\$15. Sept 1-1916*

PAYMENTS

Month	Year	Cheque No.	Amt.	REMARKS
Aug.	1914			
Sept.				
Oct.				
Nov.				
Dec.				
Jan.	1915			
Feb.				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
Aug.				
Sept.				
Oct.				
Nov.				
Dec.				
Jan.	1916			
Feb.				
March				



Pensions Notified Date *12/10/17*
 Killed in Action } Date *30/9/17*
 Died of Wounds }
 Missing }
 C. L. *8/7/17* Clerk *E. J. Bradley*
 Date Noted *12/10/17* 191

MARRIED ☐

SINGLE ☒

WIDOWER ☐

TRADE OR CALLING

Farmer.

RELIGION

Methodist

DESCRIPTION.

APPARENT AGE

18 YEARS

5 MONTHS

HEIGHT

5 FEET

8 INCHES

CHEST MEASUREMENT

33 INCHES

EXPANSION

4 INCHES

COMPLEXION

Dark

EYES

Blue

HAIR

Brown

DISTINGUISHING MARKS

Nil.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

PLACE

Strathroy Ont.

DATE

Feb. 7th 1916.

✓ (649-R-6512) SURNAME. <i>Runnalls</i>		CARD No.
CHRISTIAN NAMES <i>Richard Roy</i>		FOLL.
REGL. No. <i>802908</i>	RANK <i>Pte.</i>	
UNIT <i>135th</i>		<i>Batt</i>
FORMER CORPS <i>Nil.</i>		
NEXT OF KIN.		CHANGE OF ADDRESS
NAMES IN FULL <i>Runnalls, Richard D.</i>		
RELATIONSHIP TO SOLDIER <i>Father.</i>		
ADDR <i>No. 2 Mount Brydges.</i> <i>Ont. 649-R-6512. L. 11-5-17. B.H.</i>		
COUNTRY OF BIRTH <i>Canada, Dawn Camp, Ont.</i>		DATE <i>Aug. 7th 1897</i>
PLACE OF ATTESTATION <i>Strathroy, Ont.</i>		DATE <i>Feb. 7th 1916.</i>
<i>0/8 22/8/16 522</i> <i>93</i>		
L. L. 90589.—M. & D. 6312.		M. F. W. 22. 100m.—1-16. H. Q. 1772-39-839.

RELATIONSHIP OF DEPENDANT

NAME OF H

[illegible]

NS. & C. ✓

ACTIVE DTS. AUTHORITY 9/17. Cha. 29.5/10/17.

REG'L. No. 802908 RANK Pte. NAME Runnallo Richard Roy.

IF IN PERM. CORPS WHAT UNIT UNIT 135 Bn. TRANSFERRED TO 134 Bn. DATE 15-10-16. AUTHORITY 80266/1

PERMANENT FORCE ALLOWANCES TRANSFERRED TO 15th Bn. DATE 1/12/16. AUTHORITY P. 20 275

PLACE OF ATTESTATION Strathroy. Canada TRANSFERRED TO Dept. 2. DATE 1/10/17. AUTHORITY Cha. 29.5/10

DATE OF ATTESTATION 7-2-16 TRANSFERRED TO DATE AUTHORITY

ASSIGNED PAY MONTHLY \$15.00 DATE EFFECTIVE 1-9-16

PAYABLE TO Richard J. Runnallo Mount. Brydges Ont. RELATIONSHIP Father

ASSIGNED PAY MONTHLY \$ DATE EFFECTIVE

NAME OF HOSPITAL

PAYABLE TO RELATIONSHIP

STOP-PAYMENT FORM (ASSIGNED PAY) RENDERED (DATE) 10/10/17. EFFECTIVE 1/10/17. REASON Died of wounds 30/9. Cha. 29.5/10

DISCHARGE DATE AND PLACE REASON AND AUTHORITY

ACCOUNT TRANSFERRED TO NON-EFFECTIVE BRANCH (DATE)

ACCOUNT TRANSFERRED TO OFFICERS' PAY BRANCH (DATE)

Checked by: [Signature]

JAN 18 1918

ATTENDANCE ROLLS					CASH PAYMENTS				ASSIGNED PAY	OTHER CHARGES	TOTAL DEBITS	BALANCE		PAY WITHHELD OR DEFERRED	PAY AVAILABLE FOR ISSUE	REMARKS
DATE	No.	DATE	No.	DATE	1	2	3	4				CREDIT	DEBIT			
8/16						1460✓										
8/16					2433✓	487✓			15		5880	1520				Bal from Canada
					487✓				15		1987	1073				
9/16					973✓						973	1970				
10/16					973✓	486✓			15 00		3959	1311				10.22 error in total debits adj. in Sept. 1917 Pay List.
					872✓				15 00		2372	2349				
11/17					2611✓	348✓			15 -		2634	2125				
					349✓	262✓			15		2459	5395				
					262✓				15		1762	6933				
12/3					349✓	267✓			15		2116	8227				
					267✓				15		2124	9402				
					357✓											
					6524	5503			150 -		28027					

C.A. X 1/17. 9.16. 30.9.17 bkg' 1950

AS Pay Book. Verified. J.G. for Sgt

802908 Mr Annalls, Richard Roy

PAY			FIELD ALLOWANCE			WORKING OR SPECIAL PAY			ASSIGNED PAY CREDITS	OTHER CREDITS	TOTAL CREDITS	ACQUITTANCE ROLLS				CASH PAYMENTS							
DATE	NO. OF DAYS	RATE	AMOUNT		NO. OF DAYS	RATE	AMOUNT					NO. OF DAYS	RATE	AMOUNT		1		2		3		4	
			\$	C.			\$	C.			\$	C.	No.	DATE	No.	DATE	No.	DATE	No.	DATE			
1917																							
																		</					

4	ASSIGNED PAY	OTHER CHARGES	TOTAL DEBITS	BALANCE		PAY WITHHELD OR DEFERRED	PAY AVAILABLE FOR ISSUE	REMARKS
				CREDIT	DEBIT			
	150 -		280 27	94 03				
	15		15	113 13				
	15		17 67	129 56				
	15		25 71	146 85				
	195		338 65					
								<i>Gr. 10⁰⁰ from nov. exp. of total deb. to Nov. 1917</i> <i>Transf. to 2 1/10/17.</i> <i>checked</i> <i>me. Kent</i>





Toronto.

Pte. R. R. Runnalls, a Mt. Brydges' boy, is reported wounded in action.
Thirty per cent of Michigan's bean

ROY RUNNALLS

by

Donald S. Hair

One of my mother's many first cousins was killed in the First World War. He was Roy Runnalls, the son of Grandad Runnalls' oldest brother, Uncle Richard. I knew little about him. And I think my mother did not know a great deal about him either: she was only nine years old when he died. In the late 1970s, when she was writing out for her children what she knew about her family, she listed him, along with Uncle Richard's other sons and daughters, simply by his first name, with the note "killed in World War I; name on the cenotaph Mt. Brydges." Roy's surname is misspelled there, as it is on the memorial plaque at the foot of the Middlesex Tower of University College at Western. Not many people on campus now remember that that tower, which has become the icon of the university, is in fact a War Memorial Tower, built in 1924 to honor the men of Middlesex County who were killed in the First World War. Among the ceremonies marking the opening of the new buildings on campus in 1924 was one on October 17, the unveiling of the plaque recording the names of the dead. It was General Sir Arthur Currie, at that time principal of McGill University, who performed the ritual: he had been commander of those men whose names were now in bronze, and he had an even closer connection with them: he was, in the words of the university historian, "a son of Middlesex County, a native of Strathroy" (Gwynne-Timothy 247). For Currie had been born on a farm in Adelaide Township, on the 4th Line west of Strathroy, at a long-vanished community called Napperton, and the old white-brick farmhouse still stands at the beginning of the twenty-first century, though much altered and sadly neglected. We always noted it when we were going to Strathroy.

There is one other snippet of information about Roy among my mother's things: she wrote his name and his date of birth — 1 August 1897 — in her birthday book. And since the practice of having a birthday book has disappeared, I had better explain that it was an aide mémoire, and that among the early gifts a child would receive would be one of these little books, where family and relatives and friends signed their names under the day and month of their birth. Alice's was The Scripture Birthday Book (New York: Thomas B. Crowell, n.d.), with a Bible verse for each date.

Among my mother's memorabilia was a photograph of Roy Runnalls in his soldier's uniform. It is now in the archives at Western, but without a context: an account of his life and his war experiences. A search through the Strathroy Age-Dispatch turned up a letter he had written to his parents, in which he refers to coming through "that scrap on Easter Monday, April 9th" — my first clue to the fact that he had fought in the assault on Vimy Ridge, Canada's defining action on the Western Front, and had survived. His file in Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa gave me a good deal of personal information, and two sources for his regiment — the 15th Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada — told me about the actions in which he was involved: the two sources are the War Diaries for the Battalion (now digitized and available on-line), and a history of the regiment written by Kim Beattie and published in 1932. I now had enough to put together the following.

Richard Roy Runnalls was born in Dawn Township, Lambton County, on 1 August 1897. Though the Runnallses had first immigrated to Caradoc Township, the family moved to Dawn about 1870, and Richard, Roy's father, grew up at Oakdale and eventually farmed there. He had been in Dawn for more than twenty-five years when Roy was born. Roy's mother was Margaret Jane Swedden. So her name is spelled on her gravestone, but she appears as "Sweden" in my mother's notes and as "Sweedden" in other family sources. She died a year after Roy was born, and is buried in the cemetery beside (what was then) the Methodist church in Shetland, on the Euphemia side of the Sydenham River which marks the boundary between Dawn and Euphemia. Roy was the youngest of her children. Her first-born was Leslie, the oldest of my mother's cousins — he was born in 1888 — and then came Celecta, Edward, and Ada.

Roy's father married again, though I do not know exactly when. His second wife was Mary Jane White, and with her he had a second family: Percy, Una, and Maurice. In 1903, before Maurice was born, the family moved back to Caradoc, and settled on a farm, lot 14, concession 6 (now Olde Drive). The Runnallses, like many Cornish people, were Methodists, and Uncle Richard and his family attended Mount Carmel Methodist Church, on a low sandy rise where the Adelaide Road curved between church and cemetery, about halfway between Strathroy and Mount Brydges.

On February 7, 1916, Roy, who was then five months beyond his eighteenth birthday, went into Strathroy and enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. He was a farm boy from Caradoc Township, and in answer to the question "What is your Trade or Calling?" he wrote "Farmer." His attestation paper provides details of his physical condition and appearance: he was five feet eight inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair, and a complexion described as "dark." He weighed 145 pounds, and his "physical development" was judged to be "good." The same adjective was applied to his "habits." He was vaccinated against smallpox and inoculated against typhoid by Dr. Berdan, the longtime family doctor in Strathroy, who would himself go overseas in 1916 as medical officer with the 135th Battalion.

That was the battalion Roy joined — the 135th O.S. Battalion, C.E.F., the Middlesex Battalion, based in London, Ontario. Its commanding officer was Lieut-Col. B. Robson, whose signature is the last on Roy's attestation paper. I do not know what training Roy received, but on August 9, 1916, Roy made his will, naming his father as his heir and sole executor. At that point he was very soon to be shipped overseas.

Roy's file from Library and Archives Canada indicates that he embarked from Halifax on August 22, 1916, and arrived in Liverpool on August 30. The 135th was soon absorbed into other battalions, and Roy's "Casualty Form — Active Service" record gives the details of his transfers. He was stationed initially at Witley, an army camp set up on Witley Common in Surrey, one of three facilities established by the Canadian Army in southern England. On October 15, at Witley, Roy was "Transferred to 134th. B'n," with Lt.Col. Robson signing the order. The transfer was complete with the notation, "Taken on strength of 134th Bn," and with a move to another of the Canadian Army camps, this one at Bramshott in Hampshire. ("Taken on strength" meant the entry of a soldier into a unit.) But on November 28, 1916, Roy was back at Witley, and "Proceeded overseas for service with 15th Battalion CEF." On November 29, he was "taken on strength" with that battalion. On December 1 he "LEFT FOR UNIT" (so his record is rubber-stamped); on December 2 he was "Taken on Strength," with no place other than "Field" named for the location of the move; and on December 8 he "JOINED UNIT" (so reads the rubber stamp).

Roy's file in the national archives gives a great deal of information, but it tells the researcher nothing about the active service he saw or about the conflicts in which he was involved. But from the Battalion's War Diaries and from Kim Beattie's regimental history, one can infer a great deal about Roy's battlefield experiences.

At the beginning of December in the winter of 1916 - 17, the 15th Battalion was in north-eastern France, billeted in the château at Gouy Servins. The château, as Beattie describes it, was "draughty" and "down-at-heel," and the village had "squalid, muddy streets" and "slatternly houses" (192). On December 8, the "new draft of 100 men" paraded; their first instructions were in the use of gas helmets (War Diaries). The weather was wet, and a route march planned for December 8 was cancelled, as was an "inspection parade" the next day.

Roy's first days at the Front were relatively quiet. On December 12, his regiment relieved the 10th Battalion in the Berthonval Sector, but "sniping was only desultory and the activity of the Hun consisted of occasional shelling" of the trenches (Beattie 196). "Day passed quietly"; "night passed quietly" — those are the sentences with which the diarist begins his daily report. The Battalion was relieved on the 21st and marched back to the Gouy Servins Château — where they then learned that they were to have a month's rest over Christmas. A five-hour march away from the Front brought them to their Christmas billets at Haillicourt. There "no effort was spared to ensure the men a memorable time" and "as fine a Christmas as conditions would allow" (197-98). "Units carried out their Xmas Dinners and Concerts" (War Diaries).

The rest of December and the first weeks in January were spent in training: physical drill, lectures, route marches, "practice in saluting," rifle exercises, training with various weapons, gas helmet inspection — and the occasional half-day holiday.

On January 18, 1917, the Battalion returned "up-the-line," at Bully Grenay, a suburb north of Loos, "a typical red brick village of miners' homes" (201), and on the 19th "Units moved forward to the Line," relieving another Battalion (War Diaries). Such was the pattern of troop movements: to the Front until relieved, away from the Front until ordered forward again. In January and through the whole of February, enemy activity was intermittent and "quietly" was the diarist's often used adverb. "Casualties were light, days quiet and nights comparatively peaceful" (Beattie 201). The diarist's only reference to winter weather is on January 30, when "owing to the snow our patrols were unable to carry out their work." When they did go out, in the early days of February, they reported "all quiet and no enemy patrols encountered" (War Diaries). In spite of the snow on the ground, "the trenches were dry and comfortable," according to Beattie (201), and "the strong cellars made fine dugouts." The diarist occasionally mentions casualties, without giving any details, but there are, from time to time, horrors in his account of the enemy. On February 25, for instance: "3:15 P.M. German exposed himself ... Sniper shot at and hit him. He fell against parapets and slid into the bottom of the trench."

On March 3, the Battalion was relieved and marched to Bully-Grenay, by now a familiar retreat for the men. The place had the feeling of a refuge, a feeling confirmed in verses written, much later, by one of the 48th Highlanders who survived the war, Horace Partridge. They were published in the Strathroy paper (18 January 1940) because "Bully Grenay was well known to Canadians of the last war, also to many Strathroy veterans":

Though I've taken a tour through the trenches of France
And a musketry course on the Marne,
Though I've been there and back with a ninety-pound pack
And snored with the pigs in a barn —

Though I've eaten in chateaux and shaved in a church,
Though I'm blessed by a priest every day,
I shall never be right till I get back tonight
To my billet in Bully Grenay.

For the straw in the barn is as soft as a bed
(It must be nigh twenty feet deep)
And the rats on the shelves keep to themselves
And allow a poor soldier to sleep.

Stout Madame Yvonne fries bacon tres bon
While I'm sipping her cafe au lait —
And I'll never be right till I get back tonight
To my billet in Bully Grenay.

Oh! I know every cottage in Bully Grenay
And I know ev'ry shell hole by sight.
Just over the way there an old staminet
There'll be drinks round in Bully tonight!

So hurry up train, get a move on again
And drive! Don't doss on the way!
There are cups to be filled and a calf to be killed
In my billet in Bully Grenay.

Two words require notes. One is “staminet” — “estaminet,” that is — which was a small café, bar, or bistro, especially a shabby one; the word apparently comes from “staminet,” manger, and may have its origin in the Walloon dialect. That etymology fits with the poem's other details of rural life, all of which culminate, in the last stanza, in the allusion to the parable of the prodigal son. The other word needing explanation is “doss”: slang for sleeping, or passing the time aimlessly. Did Roy Runnalls ever frequent an estaminet? I simply do not know, but his Methodism may have kept him away from alcohol.

In mid-March, 1917, the Battalion moved to a new sector — new to them — facing Vimy Ridge, amid rumors of “The Big Push” and with growing evidence of preparations for it. “Most of the men were on working parties each night, labouring in the front-line, supports, and in tunnels being built behind the front-line.... They slept in the bad air of the Maison Blanche Caves during the day” (Beattie 209). Preparation for the assault was meticulous and detailed, and each man knew exactly what to expect: he knew the location of craters, dugouts, strongposts and trenches. The first four days of April were taken up with “Battle Practice,” and on the 5th the Battalion moved into the trenches. April 8, Easter Sunday: “Preparations completed for the attack: in the morning, our heavy artillery put on an intense bombardment of the enemy wire” (War Diaries).

Early the next morning — Easter Monday, April 9 — in darkness and in “a thin, cold, driving rain” with traces of snow (217), the attack on Vimy Ridge began. Here is how the diarist recorded it: “At 3:00 A.M. our men were started into their assembly trenches and at 4:45 A.M. all the attacking force was in position. At 5:30 A.M. exactly our barrage opened on the enemy front line and our first wave went over in two fine lines. Immediately the enemy sent up a shower of lights of all colors, but his artillery replied very feebly. The remaining waves of the attack followed in good order. The front line & support trenches were taken and immediately a telephone wire was put into a captured dugout, and Headquarters was moved forward. Our first wave advanced under the protection of the barrage and the attack went ahead exactly as planned in the timetable.”

“At 6:05 A.M. the first objective (ZOLFER WEG) was reached and for thirty minutes the line rested here and reorganized. ... When the attack went forward from here it was found that there was less opposition and the waves advanced with fewer casualties. The second objective (SWISCHEN STELLUNG) was taken and our men at once dug in and reorganized. ... Lewis Gun Posts were put out in front of our line.... The Battalion spent the rest of the day digging in and bettering its position” (War Diaries). And it took “trophies”: “1 Large Minnenwerfer, 5 Medium Trench Mortars and a small Pineapple Thrower” (War Diaries for April 12).

Roy's regiment was part of the 1st Canadian Division, which was assigned to the southernmost part of Vimy Ridge. The commander of that division was Arthur Currie. Currie, as Pierre Berton has pointed out in his history of the action at Vimy, didn't look like a general. While others were trim, fit, and moustached, Currie was clean shaven, with a flabby face, a double chin, and watery blue eyes; “he was shaped like a gigantic pear” (100). But his meticulous planning for the battle brought him success where others had failed. By 12:30, seven hours after the attack began, Canadian soldiers stood on

the top of Vimy Ridge, though at a terrible cost, not only on April 9 but through the next few days: nearly thirty-six hundred men were killed. On April 10, Roy's battalion "spent the day in cleaning up its area and burying any dead. A Battalion cemetery was established on the LENS-ARRAS road" (War Diaries).

Roy came through the battle unscathed; Currie, credited with the success, was knighted by the King.

Roy's battalion stayed on the Douai Plain for the next three months. In April the men defended the ground they had won, and working parties rebuilt roads and railways. On April 25, "The Battalion marched out to WINNIPEG HUTS near Mt. St. Eloi. The men had a fine dinner for them and a Brass Band furnished music" (War Diaries). On May 6 the Battalion marched to Gouy Servins, where, according to the diarist, "the Chateau housed the whole Battalion very comfortably." The next two days "were given by the Divisional Commander for a complete rest, and for cleaning up."

And there were official inspections. On May 9, the G.O.C. 1st Canadian Division "expressed his keen satisfaction at the appearance of the men," and the next day the Corps Commander "congratulated the men on the work they had done and also on their smart bearing." The G.O.C. 1st Canadian Division was Currie; the Corps Commander was a future Governor-General of Canada, Lt. Gen. the Hon. Sir Julian Byng. There was an even more august visitor in July. On the 10th, "H.M. the King passed through the Canadian area and two Companies from the Battalion went down to the LENS-ARRAS road and lined each side" (War Diaries).

Training continued through May, in musketry, bayonet fighting, wiring, rapid loading and firing, and reading maps. One set of instructions — in "judging distance and description of targets" — anticipates a well-known World War II poem by Henry Reed, one of his "Lessons of the War" first published in 1943.

The respite from battle gave Roy time to write to his parents. Letters from soldiers at the Front were often published in local newspapers, and on May 31, 1917, the Strathroy Age printed one of Roy's letters:

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Runnalls, of Caradoc Township, the other day received another interesting letter from their son, Pte. Roy Runnalls, "Somewhere in France." Pte. Runnalls among other things says — "No doubt you have been thinking or rather wondering about me this past month as I haven't been able to write except drop a whiz-bang through from which you were able to understand I was still alive and well and came through that scrap on Easter Monday, April 9th. This leaves me feeling fine, except my poor stomach and it's a wonder it held as much as it did yesterday. You see our parcels came night before and believe me, they were a blessing after such hard times. Haven't seen Leonard for a few days and am going to hunt him up. Sorry to say Charlie was killed the morning of the advance with machine gun fire. The last I saw of him was when we were standing together in our front line just before the fray started. I miss him terribly as we were like brothers ever since we left the dear old shores of Canada and made up our minds to stick together as long as possible, which we sure did. Tell Moses Mitchell I have his ring which he left with a corporal and said to send it to him, should anything happen, so I am waiting for a chance to send it. Received both of your boxes and enjoyed the contents very, very much and must say [words illegible] Oh, that marmalade! It's too good to eat! Of course you know we can eat anything nowadays whether poor or good. Hope you send another box later on. April Vith — and here I am again. I ate so much it made me sick, after having hardly anything and then "filling" ourselves so full of sweets and cake. We are all complaining of the same trouble, but you can bet a working party will use it all. Leonard is well. Was talking to him yesterday. Did I tell you I met Wes Leitch a few days ago? He is cook for the sergeants of the A.M.C. One night we went to see him and he gave us a lot of good stuff to eat. I intend to send a few souvenirs to you, along with Charlie's ring, which you kindly give to Mr. Mitchell."

Roy's understatement — "that scrap on Easter Monday, April 9th" — is typical of letters home. Though there was official censorship, the soldiers practised self-censorship, knowing their letters were to maintain morale at home, and not wanting to upset their families with anything about the horrors they witnessed or the appalling conditions under which they existed. Roy's tone is factual and objective, even though his sentences point to horrors he has seen.

"Drop a whizbang through" needs some explanation. It was soldier slang for sending a postcard (Berton 54). The army had printed postcards with standard sentences, and the sender simply ticked off those that applied to him, such as "I am quite well" or "I hope to be home soon." Those sentences reflected the typical letter home. The writer would assure his family that he was alive and well, thank them for a parcel, describe the weather, express a wish to be home soon, and offer an opinion on when the war would end. The postcard made the use of that formula even speedier, like the shell after which it was named: a small high-velocity shell that made a whizzing sound in the air and a bang when it hit.

The 15th Battalion was back in the trenches in early June, but the Front was quiet. On June 6, for instance, "Nothing of any importance took place. Our artillery put on a test barrage which drew a little retaliation on the front line" (War Diaries). But by mid-July preparations were under way for the next major offensive: the taking of Hill 70. It was "a natural, fortified mound" guarding the town of Lens (Beattie 238), and it had been the scene of a failed — and disastrous — attempt to take the hill in 1915. By 1917 the area was, as Beattie describes it, a waste land, "a place of gloom, a death-haunted

waste, pounded and accursed" (237). And though Lens was "the heart of the coal mine area" (238) and a rail centre, Currie was ordered to take it not because of its strategic importance but to divert German attention from operations farther north. It was "the first major operation that Currie directed from start to finish" (Hyatt 76) and, as usual, he undertook the task by making careful plans and by considering in detail the lay of the land. The two hills dominating the town — one of them was Hill 70 — were, he realized, more important tactically than the city itself, and Hill 70 was the key to capturing the whole area. There was a practice ground south of Bully-Grenay, and for four days at the end of July the Battalion walked over the course and "all ranks were made familiar with the trenches" (War Diaries for July 25). The course, the diarist writes, "was a good one, especially as the ground had somewhat similar contours to the actual terrain of the attack. The men all took the greatest interest in the practices, and they became very familiar with the names of German Trenches and with the position of Dugouts, M.G.'s etc." On the 30th, Currie "called on the Battalion and made one of his typical pre-battle speeches ..." (Beattie 239).

Then, though all was in readiness, the weather at the beginning of August was bad, and Currie postponed the attack, and postponed it again, and yet again. The men "got slightly restless," according to the diarist, but "when the order to take up our positions in the line came, everyone regained their enthusiasm." It was not until the middle of the month that Currie judged the time right. On August 14, "the two Companies in LES BREBIS had baths and rested during the day. Special care was taken that these men had a good meal before moving into the line in the evening" (War Diaries). The attack took place on August 15. The diarist is admirably succinct on that date: "The operations against Hill 70 were successfully carried out. Full details will be found in the notes herewith."

The notes describe the attack as follows: "At 4:25 a.m. our barrage burst in No Man's Land and our Liquid Fire machines commenced spraying the enemy Front Line. The barrage was perfect and it was evident that none of the enemy could live through it.... The first Objective was reached with very few casualties. ... At 5:30 a.m. our barrage again started forward and our waves advanced. ... The GREEN LINE was reached at 5:39 a.m. and work was immediately commenced digging in and consolidating. ... Everything was put in readiness to withstand the counter attack which was expected" (War Diaries).

Beattie also gives an hour-by-hour account of the battle. The action of the 15th Battalion was especially note-worthy: it held its position where the German counter-attack was strongest. When General Macdonell spoke to the Battalion on August 22, he "explained what a tremendous effort the enemy had made to regain the lost ground and, how much importance they had attached to taking the position back. [He] also said that this Battalion was especially to be congratulated, as it had held the flank position against numerous determined counter attacks...." (War Diaries). Beattie's final assessment of the action is less sanguine: "Hill 70 was 'little' in yards but few operations carried out by the 15th Battalion throughout the war equalled the sheer, bitter nastiness" of the assault and the resistance to it (260).

On Monday August 20 "the Battalion packed up and marched to Barlin, passing through the familiar streets of Sains and Hersin on the way. En route, while passing along the road near Fosse 7, the official photographers took motion pictures of the Highlanders on the march. Some of the pictures taken at this time appeared later in illustrated weeklies and in several volumes dealing with the war" (Beattie 261; Beattie includes one of those photographs opposite page 258). "The next day, the 20th, the Battalion was again on the march," to the pipers playing "The Campbells Are Coming" (262). The men were billeted at Les Brebis, for a two-week break but, notes Beattie, they had only "one day's real rest" (262). The rest of the time was taken up with inspections and drill.

The inspection on August 27 was noteworthy. In a field south-east of Lozinghem the Battalion, "carefully inspected" and "never ... looking better," was drawn up half an hour in advance for the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig. Dress was "Steel Helmets and Light Marching Order with haversacks on the back." "Unfortunately there was a heavy downpour of rain. However, Sir Douglas Haig was very pleased with the appearance of the Battalion, and although he had no opportunity of speaking to them, owing to the inclemency of the weather, he congratulated the O.C. on the splendid appearance of the Battalion" (War Diaries).

At the beginning of September 1917, the men had a break. They were billeted at Marqueffles Farm, where they enjoyed "a Moving Picture performance" on one night, and a show in a big tent on a subsequent night. Then the battalion was ready for the line again: on September 4 they moved into position at Cité St. Pierre. They found the area "in a very dirty condition, [with] a great deal of material and ammunition lying around" (War Diaries), and the cleanup took several days. But conditions were difficult. "The area was stinging from gas, mostly of the mustard variety," Beattie writes (264), and there was constant shellfire and gas shells. Moreover, "The new Mustard Gas of the enemy is very hard to detect, especially as the Gas Shell is sent over at the same time as a High Explosive Shell, and consequently the Gas Shell is not noticed" (War Diaries for September 6).

"So it went, throughout that period in reserve and through the period in support, from September 10th to the 16th," when "The Battalion was now in the Laurent Sector, holding the centre subsection" (266). "The front-line was growing weary of the constant trench-mortar fire and the frequent shelling but there was to be no let up. On the 20th, in the afternoon, the

front line and support trenches were pounded and the meagre trenches on the left flank seriously damaged, and at night No Man's Land was so heavily bombarded that no patrols could go out. Four men were wounded. The 21st was no quieter. The calibre of [the German] mortars now in use was characterized as 'very great and doing much damage to the position.' The heavy, demoralizing 'kr-unch' of them wore on men's nerves" (Beattie 268). When the diarist looked back on these days, he commented on the men being "all tired out." "The trip on the Trenches was one of the hardest ones that the Battalion had had for some time, and there was so little chance to sleep and such a large amount of enemy shelling" (War Diaries for September 24).

Such was the situation when Roy was wounded by a shell. It happened on Friday September 21, in a location Beattie describes as "a Toc Emma area" (268). Toc Emma — TM — was an acronym for trench mortar, a weapon consisting of a tube mounted on a metal frame; it fired a shell at a steep angle, so that the missile arced up and came straight down on its target. The mortar was light and easily carried. Its chief advantage was that it could be fired from the trenches without exposing oneself to the enemy. But for the men in the trenches who were on the receiving end of such fire, there was constant anxiety about a random and death-dealing hit coming down out of the sky without warning.

Was Roy hit by such shell fire? His file indicates only that he suffered a "Shell Wound, Head, Legs & Ankle," and that he was evacuated to "6CCS" — No. 6 Casualty Clearing Station — which at that time was located at Bruay-la-Bussière (Nord-Pas-de-Calais). A "casualty clearing station," as the name indicates, was designed to provide initial assessment and treatment of wounds but became in practice a field hospital. Roy was assessed as "dangerously wounded"; there is a rubber-stamped notation which reads "Wounded to hospital" dated September 29, and then, on September 30, 1917, at "6CCS," "died of wounds suffered in action." The dead soldier was just twenty years old.

Roy was buried in the Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. His grave reference is II. D. 37. The following information on the cemetery is from the website: "Barlin is a village about 11 kilometres south-west of Bethune on the D188, between the Bethune-Arras and Bethune-St. Pol roads, about 6.5 kilometres south-east of Bruay. The Communal Cemetery and Extension lie to the north of the village on the D171 road to Houchin. The extension was begun by French troops in October 1914 and when they moved south in March 1916 to be replaced by Commonwealth forces, it was used for burials by the 6th Casualty Clearing Station. ... The extension contains 1,095 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 2 being unidentified. ... The extension was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens." Lutyens was the British architect who designed many of the military cemeteries, but his best-known design was that of the Cenotaph in Whitehall in London, the model for many local war memorials in Canada, including the one in London, Ontario.

In its issue of October 11, 1917, under "CARADOC," the Strathroy Age reported Roy's death:

"Another native Caradoc boy has laid his life on the altar of sacrifice for his country's safety and honour. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Runnalls, of this township, received sad news a few days ago, when an official message came, announcing the death of their beloved son, Pte. Richard Roy Runnalls. Pte. Runnalls was reported wounded in action on Sept. 21st. That his wound was serious was intimated in a letter received afterward from the Chaplain of his regiment. Pte. Runnalls passed away on September 30th. He enlisted and went overseas with the Middlesex Battalion and was later transferred to the 15th Battalion 48th Highlanders, with whom he had served in the trenches for about ten months. The deceased soldier was born and raised to young man in this township and the announcement of his death has cast a gloom among the legion of friends and relatives around his old home. A memorial service will be held in the Mount Carmel Methodist Church on Sunday, Oct. 14th, at 3 o'clock, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Reycraft."

A week later, the paper printed an account of that service: "An impressive memorial service was conducted Sunday afternoon in the Mount Carmel Methodist Church, in memory of Private Richard Roy Runnalls, who died as a result of wounds received in battle. Glowing tribute was paid the deceased soldier for his courage and prowess by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Reycraft, who preached an appropriate sermon from the words: 'One shall be taken, and one left.' The church was filled to its capacity and there were suitable decorations for the sad occasion. The death of Pte. Runnalls makes the third loss the congregation has sustained during the war, Corp. Brown and Pte. Perry have previously made the supreme sacrifice."

On October 25, Roy's parents placed a "Thank You" notice in the paper: "Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Runnalls, of Caradoc, desire to thank their many friends for their kind letters of sympathy in their sad bereavement."

Roy's Medal Card in his file with Library and Archives Canada has both a "B" (for British War Medal) and "V" (for Victory Medal) in the upper right corner, but both are X'd out. Do the X's mean the medals had been sent out? On his Memorial Cross Card, there is a note — "not elig. for star" (it was for service before 1916). To his father was sent a "P. & S." — a Memorial Plaque and Scroll — and to his step-mother Mary a Memorial Cross.

How is Roy remembered? His name appears in the First World War Book of Remembrance in the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa (page 320); and his name is on both the cenotaph in Mount Brydges and the plaque in the Middlesex Tower at Western. It also appears in one other spot. Not at the gravesite of his father, who died in 1931, or of

his step-mother, who died in 1944, both of them buried in Mount Brydges Cemetery, but on the gravestone of his mother in Shetland Cemetery. The inscription reads: "RUNNALLS / Margaret Jane Swedden 1865 - 1898 / Beloved Wife of / Richard T. Runnalls / Private Roy Runnalls / 1897 - 1917 / Died in France." The local legion has placed an aluminum maple leaf at the foot of the stone.

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(With thanks to Peter Neary of Western's History Department)

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