

**Name: Wilson, William Tully**

**Rank: Cpl**



William Tully Wilson was the son of Ralph and Mary Wilson of Mount Brydges ON. He attested in the 25<sup>th</sup> Battery Canadian Field Artillery on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1915. He was promoted Cpl in the field on the 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1915. 23 Jul 1917 he was promoted Temporary Ltn in the Artillery. On the 17 Oct 1917 he was taken on strength 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. He was killed in action 1 Nov 1917. He is buried at Vlamertinghe Belgium. He is also remembered in Soldiers Tower University of Toronto.

### SERVICE RECORD

<i>Date</i>	<i>Particulars</i>
28 Sept 1890	Born Hamilton Ontario
16 Mar 1915	Attested 25 <sup>th</sup> Battery Canadian Field Artillery, student, 6' tall, fair hair, blue eyes, 160 lbs, Presbyterian,
18 Aug 1915	Arrived Plymouth England from Canada
1 Oct 1915	Confirmed rank of Cpl in the field
16 Jan 1916	Left England for France
20 Feb 1917	Temporary commission in CFA
24 Feb 1917	TOS RBCFA Sutcliffe
3 Apr 1917	TOS from Regimental Depot in Reserve Brigade
15 Jul 1917	SOS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade CRA to proceed to France
17 Jul 1917	TOS Canadian Artillery Pool
23 Jul 1917	To be temporary Ltn CRA
23 Aug 1917	SOS from Regimental Depot to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade CRA for appointment to commission
15 Oct 1917	Posted to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade CRA
17 Oct 1917	SOS to 6 <sup>th</sup> Artillery Brigade
17 Oct 1917	Posted to 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde CFA
17 Oct 1917	TOS 6 <sup>th</sup> Brigade CFA
18 Oct 1917	Attended #1 Training Camp for ?
19 Oct 1917	Left base for CCRC
1 Nov 1917	Killed in Action
24 Feb 1921	Medals and scroll sent to Ralph Wilson, father at Mount Brydges ON
11 Jan 1922	Plaque sent to Father as above
11 Jan 1922	Memorial Cross sent to Mary Wilson (mother) at Mount Brydges ON

# ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 89035

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio. **TRIPPLICATE**

## QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

1. What is your name?..... *William Lully Wilson*
  2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... *Hamilton, Canada*
  3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... *Ralph Wilson*
  4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... *Mt. Brydges, Ont.*
  5. What is the date of your birth?..... *September 28, 1890*
  6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... *Student*
  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?..... *U. of T. Training Corps.*
  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) *Yes*  
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?)
- William Lully Wilson* (Signature of Man).  
*A. D. L. P. M. J. C. E. T. C.* (Signature of Witness).

## DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *William Lully Wilson*, 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.

*William Lully Wilson* (Signature of Recruit)  
Date *March 16* 191*5*, *A. D. L. P. M. J. C. E. T. C.* (Signature of Witness)

## OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *William Lully Wilson*, 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.

*William Lully Wilson* (Signature of Recruit)  
Date *March 16* 191*5*, *A. D. L. P. M. J. C. E. T. C.* (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 *Toronto* this *sixteenth* day of *March* 191*5*.

*W. H. Lang* (Signature of Justice)

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

*Leon F. Sauer* (Approving Officer)



# Description of William Gully Wilson on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 24 years 6 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 6 ft. 0 ins.

Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 40 ins.

Range of expansion 5 ins.

Complexion Fair

Eyes Blue

Hair Fair

Religious denominations. { Church of England

Presbyterian X

Wesleyan

Baptist or Congregationalist

Other Protestants

(Denomination to be stated.)

Roman Catholic

Jewish

Scar on right forearm near elbow.

## 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 Mar 16 191 5

Place Toronto

Jas. W. Barton  
Captain  
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.

William Gully Wilson 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.

J. H. Barton (Signature of Officer)

Date June 16 191 5 of a.c. 25 Battery



# ORIGINAL

## MEDICAL HISTORY SHEET.

Surname Wilson Christian Name William Tully

Examined { on 11 day of Mar 1915  
 at Toronto  
 Birthplace { City or Town Hamilton Ont  
 County Westworth

Approved by Jas. W. Barton  
 Rank Captain C. P. C.

Apparent age 24 yrs.  
 Trade or occupation Student  
 Height 6 Feet 0 Inches.  
 Weight 160 Lbs.  
 Chest measurement { Minimum 35 inches.  
 Maximum expansion 40 inches.  
 Physical development good  
 Small-Pox Marks —

Date	Fit or Unfit	EXAMINED FOR RE-ENGAGEMENT,
		<u>25 MAR 1915</u>
		M.O.
		M.O.
		M.O.
		M.O.
		M.O.
		M.O.

Vaccination Marks { Arm. Right. Left. ☒  
 Number 1  
 When Vaccinated last 1905

Date	Result	VACCINATIONS.
<u>17/10/17</u>	<u>O.K.</u>	<u>NO Thames Lt.</u>
		M.O.

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease —

		M.O.
		M.O.

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection —

Date	Result	ANTI-TYPHOID INOCULATIONS, ETC.
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<u>May 18</u>	<u>O.K.</u>	<u>AK Farrell</u>
<u>May 28</u>	<u>O.K.</u>	<u>AK Farrell</u>
<u>11/10/17</u>	<u>TA 13</u>	<u>NO Thames Lt.</u>
		M.O.

Enlisted on 17th day of March 1915 at Ottawa, Canada

	CORPS.	REG'TL NUMBER.	HABITS.	DATE.
Joined on enlistment	<u>25th Field Battery</u> <u>B. E. F.</u>	<u>89141</u>		<u>March 16, 1915.</u>
Transferred to..	<u>5TH B. RES. BDE. C.F.A.</u> <u>2nd Bde. C.F.A.</u> <u>P.O. to C.P.A.</u>	<u>Lieut</u>		<u>2-3-17</u> <u>5-8-17.</u> <u>15-10-17.</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.

CANADIAN

28/12/18 and

officer's

**DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS**

R. O. No.  
H. Q. No.

- Proceedings of Court of Inquiry or on men reported Missing on Active Service.....
- Attestation Papers.....
- Declaration of change of name.....
- Authority for special enlistments.....
- Documents of re-enlisted men.....
- Regimental Conduct Sheet.....
- Compulsory Stoppages.....
- Casualty Forms.....
- Proceedings on discharge.....
- Corps History Sheet.....
- Date and No. of Deposit Receipt for Purchase Money and Amount.....
- Parchment Certificate.....
- Medical Report for Invalids.....
- Medical History Sheet.....
- Proceedings of Regt. Court Martial.....
- Copies of Convictions by Civil Power.....
- Company Conduct Sheet.....
- Clothing Transfer Certificate.....
- Inventory of Kit.....
- Last Pay Certificate.....

Name WILSON WILLIAM TULLY  
Regt. No. 8914 Rank Lieut  
Corps 6th Bde. 6th Div. (Inf. 7th Div. Bde. 6th Div. 6th Div.)

*Killed in Action 1-11-17*

*Ret 30-9-20*

28901



*mx 15/10/20*  
*39103226 - 1*  
*28122 - 1*  
*1442000*

*1*  
*2 11*  
*2 11*



Surname **WILSON**

Christian Names **William Tully**

Rank **89141 Cpl. C.F.A.**

Name and Address of Next-of-Kin

Promotion **T/Lieut.**

**Ralph Wilson,**

**Mt. Brydges, Ont.**

Unit **Can. Art.**

Place of birth **Hamilton, Canada.**

Married (Yes or No) **No.**

Appointments

Date of leaving Canada

Date and Cause of Resignation

Report		Record of Promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case	Place	ARTILLERY Date <b>B</b> ✓	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date	From whom received				
18.8.17.	W.O.	To be Temp. Lieut. Can. Art.		23.7.17. L.G. 30238.	
3.9.17	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde. C.F.A.	W.O.S. with effect		23.7.17. P <sup>nd</sup> 74.	
16.10.17	do	S.O.S. on Pro. to 6 <sup>th</sup> Can. Hdq. - France		15.10.17. P <sup>nd</sup> 117.	
23.10.17	C. of B. Bd.	T.O.S. on Am. from Eng. as Ref. for C.F.A.		17.10.17. P <sup>nd</sup> 91.	
25.10.17	do	S.O.S. on being Posted to 6 <sup>th</sup> Bty. Bde		17.10.17. P <sup>nd</sup> 92. T.O.S. 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde. P <sup>nd</sup> 176	
2.11.17	C.R.O.	Rpt. from Gen. Hdq. Killed in action		1.11.17. CL 221. (A.F.B. 104-93-70907A) (Estab. 27.11.17)	

5309

A.F.B. 103, 22 OCT. 1917

6<sup>th</sup> Bde. 6<sup>th</sup> A.  
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

1-52.  
**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**  
(Erase heading not required.)

Original

Army Form C. 2118.

Sheet No. 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MULLCOT (L 5027)	Nov 1/17		Strenuous preparations being made for attack on Paschendale. Canadians making great improvement in the road and duck-walk paths. The mud has greatly impeded both horses and men in transporting ammunition, many horses having had to be destroyed after being mired. (5.45 am) group fired on army preparatory barrage. Bursts of fire 4 to 4.30 am. 16 <sup>th</sup> Battery commence moving their position to D14a. Casualties. Lieut. W. J. Wilson, who was attached from the 15 <sup>th</sup> Bty. to the 16 <sup>th</sup> Battery, was killed this morning. This officer had just returned from England, where he had undergone a cadet course and received his commission. Before that he had done excellent work in France as Corporal in the 25 <sup>th</sup> Battery. One other man killed and one wounded.	
	Nov 2.		5.55 am. Group fired on army barrage, lasting 30 minutes and searching back 1000 yards from S.O. S. line. During afternoon corps barrages at 4 pm and bursts of fire at 4.20 and 5.45 pm. One group CP. maintained and battalion and brigade leaders. Batteries working under extreme difficulties heavy shelling all day and gas shelling at night.	App I II III Sf



74094

Rank *Private* *640* Name **WILSON William Tully** Reg'l No. **89141** R-122.

Unit **25th Batty** If in perm. Corps, }  
What Unit? }

Place and Date of Enlistment **Toronto. 16th Mar. 1915** Married or Single **Single**

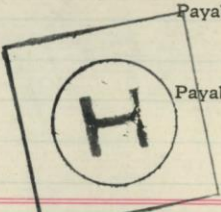
Name and Address, Next-of-Kin **Ralph Wilson.** Place of Birth **Canada. Hamilton**

**Mt. Bridge. Ontario.** Relationship

Assigned Pay Monthly \$ Payable to Relationship

Separation Allowance \$ Payable to Relationship

Discharge, Date and Place Reason Character



**A.F.B. 103 CHECKED**  
REMARKS 1015  
Taken from Official Documents

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Character
Date	From whom received				
		<i>Landed England Plymouth 18.8.15</i>			
16-1-16	<i>at C &amp; A</i>	<i>Embarked for France</i>		16-1-16	<i>Part II O No 16</i>
7-2-16	<i>at Base</i>	<i>Confirmed in Rank of Corp. in the Field</i>		22-1-16	<i>Part II O No 12-20</i>
14/6/16	<i>at Base</i>	<i>Promoted Corp.</i>		1/10/15	<i>" " 37</i>
5-3-17	<i>" "</i>	<i>S.O.S. on transfer to Res Bde C.F.B. for Term. Com in C.F.B.</i>		20-2-17	<i>" " 37</i>
2-3-17	<i>R.B.C.F.A.</i>	<i>Take on strength Schiffe</i>		24/3/17	<i>" " 61</i>
4.4.17	<i>Regt Depot</i>	<i>Lo S from Res Bde &amp; on Com Res Bde</i>		3.4.17	<i>- 264 P 94 1/17 Res Bde</i>
27.8.17	<i>do.</i>	<i>S.O.S. on app't. to comm. in CEF and posted to 2nd Bde CRA</i>		23.8.17	<i>" " 171</i>

Army Form B. 103.

*Original not available*  
**Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Regimental Number 8974

Regiment or Corps 7th Artillery Brigade C.F.A.

Rank 9/Lieut Surname Wilson Christian Name William Tuttle

Religion Catholic Age on Enlistment 24 years 6 months

Enlisted (a) 16-3-15 Terms of Service (a) 1-10-15 of War 24/7/17 Service reckons from (a) 16-3-15

Date of promotion to present rank 1-10-15 Date of appointment to lance rank 24/7/17

Extended                      Re-engaged                      Qualification (b) Student  
                     or Corps Trade and Rate                     

Occupation Student Signature of Officer                     

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., 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 of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ...			
		Disembarked...	<u>England</u>	<u>18.8.15</u>	
<u>16.1.16</u>	<u>9c 7<sup>th</sup> C.F.A.</u>	<u>Embarked for France</u>	<u>th.</u>	<u>16.1.16</u>	<u>P.O. 16</u>
<u>7.2.16</u>	<u>A.G. Office at Base</u>	<u>Confirmed Band Cpl</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>22.1.16</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>14.6.16</u>	<u>9c 7<sup>th</sup> C.F.A.</u>	<u>Promoted Corporal</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>1.10.15</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>5.3.17</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>S.O. on trans to Res Bde</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>20.2.17</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>2.3.17</u>	<u>Res Bde C.F.A.</u>	<u>S.O.S.</u>	<u>S'cliffe</u>	<u>24.2.17</u>	<u>61</u>
<u>4.4.17</u>	<u>Regtl Depot</u>	<u>S.O.S. from Res Bde and on command Res Bde</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>3.4.17</u>	<u>P.O. 267 P.O. 94 Res Bde</u>
					<u>4.4.17</u>

*P. W. Blows.*  
 For Colonel i/c Records, C.E.F.

Lieut.

(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) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, &c.



Lieut. W. L. Wilson

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., 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 of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
17.10.17	C. & O. Dep.	Landed in France, T.O.S. of Can. Artz Pool.	Field	17.10.17	"Semlineis" 5022. d. 12/10/17. K.R. 18910 Pt. 2.0. No. 91 P 23-10-17.
18.10.17	do	attending No. 1 Training Camp for Gas		18.10.17	N.R.
19.10.17	do	Left Base for C. & R. C. Field		19.10.17	N.R.
17.10.17	a a g.	Posted to 6th Bde. C.F.A.	"	17.10.17	Wire K.R. 844 d. 16-10-17. Lefty d. 17-10-17. Pt. 2.0. No. 72 D. 25-10-17.
17.10.17	a a g.	T.O.S. 6th Bde C.F.A. on King posted from Can. Artz Pool.	Field	17.10.17	Auth. as above. Pt. 2.0. No. 175 D. 26-10-17.
1.11.17.	6th Bde C.F.A.	Killed in Action	Field	1.11.17.	Wire No. 307 D. 1.11.17. Ref. K.A. 1809. Pt. 2.0. No. 179 D. 2-11-17.

Chas. B. Hatwell

LIEUT  
OFFICER IN CHARGE  
CANADIAN SECTION G.H.Q.  
3RD ECHELON

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				
2.3.17	O.C. Res. Bde. CFA	Taken on strength of Res. Bde. CFA. posted to 5 <sup>th</sup> Bty.	HORNCLIFFE.	2.3.17	B.O. #61.
23-6-17.	O.C. Res Bde. CFA.	S.O.S. Res Bde. CFA to 2nd Bde. CRA on absorption.	Shorncliffe.	22-6-17.	B.O. Pt. 2.174. 23-6-17.
5-8-17.	O.C. 2nd Bde. CRA.	Ceases to be att. to 1 <sup>st</sup> Batty and is att. to 2nd Bde. CRA for duty, rations, quarters & Discipline.	Shorncliffe.	4-8-17.	B.O. Pt. 2.45. 5-8-17.
23.8.17	O/C C.A.R.D.	S.O.S. to Commissioned & posted to 2nd Bde.	Shorncliffe	23.8.17	Pt. 2.171 upward LIEUT. & ADJ.
3-9-17	O.C. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde. CRA	To be temp. Lieut. in Can. Arty. London Gazette 18-8-17	Shorncliffe	23-7-17	FOR O.C. CAN. ART. REGIMENTAL DEPT. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde Pt. II 74
3-9-17	do	T.O.S. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde on appt. to temp. commission	do	23-7-17	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde Pt. II 74 L. Ciffey Lieut. for Col. Cudg. Can. Res. Arty.
16.10.17	O.C. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde. CRA	Proceeded overseas to CFA France	Kidney	15.10.17.	B.O. Pt. II 117. P. H. H. H. CAPT. & ADJUTANT, 2ND BRIGADE, CANADIAN RESERVE ARTILLERY.



*not elig. for star.*

✓  
WILSON, Wm. Tully, Lieut. 6th Bde. C. F. A. ✓

MEDALS &  
DECORATIONS

Ralph Wilson (Father)  
Mount Brydyes, Ont.

PLAQUE &  
SCROLL

FEB 24 1921  
Scroll Desp. \_\_\_\_\_ Reqn. No. 2.23157  
Father, as above.

MEMORIAL  
CROSS

Plaque Desp. \_\_\_\_\_ Reqn. No. 3203  
Serial No 784372 JAN 11 1922  
Mrs. Mary I. Wilson (Mother)  
Mount Brydyes, Ont.

28365

*H* Desp 28/10/20

(m/c 28203.

## Casualty Form—Active Service.

Army Form B. 103.  
 CERTIFIED CORRECT.  
 Canadian Record Office,  
 Westminster House,  
 7, Millbank, S.W.

Regiment or Corps 7th Artillery Brigade, C.F.A., C.E.F.Regimental No. 89141 Rank Bombardier Name Wilson, Wm. TullyEnlisted (a) 16-3-15 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckons from (a) 16-3-15.Date of promotion 1-10-15 Date of appointment 23-7-17 Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.Extended 15 Re-engaged Student. Qualification (b) Student.

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.
22-1-16 of Unit	Confirmed Corporal	HAVRE 18 JAN 1916	22-1-16	B213 P. 20 No 20 d/7-2-16
7-6-16 of Unit	Promoted to Corporal	do	1-10-15	Pt. 2.0 37. d/14-6-16
24-2-17 of Unit	Struck off strength on proceeding to England for 2nd Commission in Can. Field Artillery and transferred to Reserve Bde C.F.A. Thorncliffe	Field	20-2-17	B213 WO letter 12/overd/3238 (MSK) d/1-2-17 R.E. 161-1006 Pt II Orders 37 d/5-3-17
				R. S. Vautour LIEUT OFFICER i/c RECORDS CANADIAN G.H.Q. CHELSEA
2-3-17 of Res Bde	Taken on strength	S. Cliffe	24-2-17	Pt II 061 d/11-06-17 Lieut. For Colonel i/c Records, 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.]



NAME		REG'T'L No.	
RANK AND CORPS		H. Q. FILE No. 649.	
CABLE		FOLLOWS	
No.	DATE	NATURE OF CASUALTY	
6296	3-11-17	Killed in action Nov. 1st 1917 ✓	
2782090a		Killed in action in the field	
Rowen	2-11-17	France or Belgium Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> 1917.	
		Noted 22-12-17	

L. L. 26438. M. & D. 8207.

M. F. W. 42-50M.-8-17.  
H. Q. 1772-39-893.

Number.....	Rank.....	Lieut.
Surname.....	WILSON	
Christian Names.....	William Tully	
Unit.....	Theatre of War.....	France
Dates of Service.....		
Remarks.....	D	
Latest Address.....	Ralph Wilson Esq.	
	Adjutant, Bridges, Ont.	
Roll No. B	Page 166	

NAME

Wilson, William Jolly

REG'T'L No.

H. Q. FILE No. 649.

RANK AND CORPS

Lieut 6th Brigade C.I.A. 25th Batt.

CABLE

NO. 4-8

DATE

NATURE OF CASUALTY

FOLLOWS

No.

FOLLOWS

6296 3-11-17 Killed in action Nov. 1st 1917 ✓  
 278 2090a Killed in action in the field  
 Rouen 2-11-17 France or Belgium Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1917.

Noted 22-12-17



S C.	EFFECTIVE DATE 1.10.15	#
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MISSIONS TO HOSPITAL, &c.					
	V. OR A.				
IED					NAME OF HO

Common

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Jan	31	34	10	31		3		37	20
Feb	28	33	60					33	60
Mar	31	37	20					37	20
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DATE	PAY				FIELD ALLOWANCE				WORKING OR SPECIAL PAY				ASSIGNED PAY CREDITS	OTHER CREDITS	TOTAL CREDITS	ACQUITTANCE ROLLS					
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Sep	30		33		30		3									36		9	39	968	
Oct	31		34	10	31		3	10								37	20	1	02	1027	
Nov	30		33		30		3									36					
Dec	31		34	10	31		3	10								37	20	1	02	1027	
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PERMANENT FORCE ALLOWANCES TRANSFERRED TO Pay 2. L. b. 11.7.17 DATE 20.7.17 AUTHORITY 109.118.7/17

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ASSIGNED PAY MONTHLY \$ 20 DATE EFFECTIVE 1.4.16

PAYABLE TO Ralph Wilson Mount Bridges Ont RELATIONSHIP Father

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DISCHARGE DATE AND PLACE Aug 22/17 REASON AND AUTHORITY 89228 7.8.17

ACCOUNT TRANSFERRED TO NON-EFFECTIVE BRANCH (DATE) 8/23/17

ACCOUNT TRANSFERRED TO OFFICERS' PAY BRANCH (DATE) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered on N.E. Card Index PN  
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RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

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## World War 1



**William Wilson (on left) and Clarence Wilson (on right) - 2 boys from St. Andrew's who joined the army in World War 1. William left his studies for the ministry to defend his country. He was killed in action Nov. 1, 1917. Clarence was wounded. Monument is that of Lt. William J. Wilson in France.**







**WILLIAM TULLY WILSON** Sept. 28, 1890—Nov. 1, 1917  
Lieutenant, Canadian Field Artillery.

Son of Ralph Wilson; b. Hamilton; ed. Brant Tp., Bruce Cy., P.S., Mount Brydges P.S., Strathroy C.I.; Farming; Presbyterian Missioner, Chaplin, Alta., 1913; University College 1914-15; Year executive; Knox College; C.O.T.C.

He enlisted as Driver in the 25th Battery, 7th Brigade, C.F.A., and was made Bombardier before going overseas in August, and promoted Corporal in October. He reached France in January 1916, and served on the Ypres front and then on the Somme. In February 1917 he was recommended for a commission, which, after training in England, he received in July. He returned to the front on October 15th, and was appointed to the 15th Battery. Two weeks later he fell in action at Passchendaele, being instantly killed as his battery was answering an s.o.s. call. Buried at Vlaminghe.



Photo courtesy of Marg Liessens  
Photo fournie gracieusement par Marg Liessens

## WILLIAM TULLY ("BILLY") WILSON

*by Donald S. Hair*

William Tully ("Billy") Wilson was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on September 28, 1890. His father was Ralph Wilson (1855 - 1940) and his mother Mary Isabella Tully (1863 - 1945). Ralph Wilson was a native of Durham County, England, and Mary Tully came from the Chesley area in southwestern Ontario. They were married on May 30, 1888, and lived their early married life in Hamilton before moving to Mount Brydges, Ontario, where Ralph Wilson was the mail carrier. It was there that the Wilsons came to know the Runnallses: the Wilsons were members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Mount Brydges, as were my grandparents, Joseph and Tillie Runnalls. In those days, saying that "they go to our church" meant that families felt a close connection with one another, and the Runnallses and the Wilsons not only attended the church services and Sunday School but also participated in all the social activities of the various church organizations.

The Wilsons had three sons. Billy was the oldest, and then came Clarence (whose nickname was "Doc") and Franklin. Like his brother, Clarence fought in the First World War and, unlike his older sibling, survived. He enlisted in the 135th Middlesex Battalion in January 1916, and by September was in training at Witley camp in England. In a letter to his parents, "he stated that on account of the extreme censorship he could say very little, but intimated that they had had a dangerous voyage and had sighted some submarines" (Strathroy Age-Dispatch, 21 September 1916). "England and English customs seemed to him ... somewhat of a joke." He served at the Front in the 60th Battalion, and was wounded at Vimy Ridge on April 14, 1917. After treatment in the hospital at Etaples in France and six months' convalescence in England, he returned to the Front with the 87th Grenadier Guards, and survived the fighting at Passchendaele, Arras, Amiens and Valenciennes. Upon his return to Canada, Clarence worked as a fire ranger in Northern Ontario. In August of 1921, he fell ill, and died of peritonitis on August 13, at Temagami. He was only twenty-two. The Strathroy paper described him as "a young man of sterling qualities, beloved by all who knew him. The funeral to Mt. Brydges Cemetery ... was largely attended."

The Wilsons' youngest son, Franklin, joined the R.C.M.P. and was stationed at Moose Factory when his parents celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in 1938. At the time when his father died in March 1940, Franklin was a corporal with the detachment in Amherstburg.

The chief link between the Runnallses and the Wilsons was the friendship of their two oldest sons: Billy Wilson and Frank Runnalls. Billy was five years older than Frank, but both had made up their minds to train for the Presbyterian ministry, and for that they needed a high school and a university education. The school in Mount Brydges was only a continuation school, but Strathroy had a collegiate institute. Among my mother's papers is a copy of the program for the opening of the new building on Quality Hill in February 1914, and it includes a photograph of the old school, which had been in use since 1874. There is a note in my mother's handwriting: "This school opening is interesting. Frank and Billy Wilson attended the old school for 4 years and the fall of 1913 then I think the new school in Jan. 1914." They travelled each day from Mount Brydges, in a democrat (a light horse-drawn wagon with two seats) in warm weather and a cutter (a small sleigh) in the winter.

Billy Wilson appears in three passages in Uncle Frank's memoirs. When Uncle Frank is telling about his days at the collegiate institute and his daily trips between Mount Brydges and Strathroy, he says that, after commuting with a girl about whom he was teased, he later had "another passenger, my Sunday School teacher, William Wilson. He was in his early twenties and had decided to train for the ministry. It meant that he had to go to high school before he could attend college. Later we went off to college in Toronto together and roomed there together" (32).

In another passage Uncle Frank elaborates on that last statement. "When I went to Toronto in 1914 William Wilson, a young man in his early twenties, accompanied me. He had been my Sunday School teacher and I was greatly attached to him. He had decided to enter the ministry and was now ready to enter the University. We travelled together by train to Toronto and there found lodging in an attic room on the third floor of a house on Robert Street owned by a Mrs. Stiver. The rent was \$3 a week and we prepared our own evening and morning meals. For the noon meal we purchased tickets, covering 21 meals for about \$3.75, as I remember. The arrangement continued until the end of the year, when the new Knox College with its student residence and dining hall was opened. We then went into the new building, where every student had his own room, and where church students for the ministry had room and board for \$6 per week" (40).

Before his first year at University College, Toronto (1914 - 15), in the summer of 1913, Billy Wilson had been a Presbyterian missionary in Chaplin, Alberta. And his first university year was a busy one: he was on the "year executive" at Knox College, and he joined the C. O. T. C. On March 16, 1915, before completing his year, he enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. Uncle Frank explains the context of that decision: "By 1915 World War I was claiming more and more men for military service. My old Sunday School teacher, along with a number of other students, enlisted in a battery unit, and in 1917 he was killed in action in Flanders" (40). Uncle Frank does not say anything about he himself being "claimed," but my mother remembered that time. Uncle Frank was rejected for military service because he had flat



feet, and in those days when long marches were routine, flat feet made a recruit unfit. The news came as a great relief to my grandparents. When Uncle Frank's letter arrived, my grandmother and mother went out to the barn at once, to tell my grandfather: "It was a serious thing," my mother said when she told that story.

St. Andrew's Church, where Billy had been "an enthusiastic worker among the young people" (Strathroy Age, 8 November 1917), held a farewell gathering for him, and though my mother was only six years old at the time, she remembered Billy saying, "Well, goodbye Mrs. Runnalls — and goodbye, Alice." For my mother, as the youngest in the family (and thirteen years younger than Uncle Frank), had been the pet of her oldest brother and his best friend. Letters and postcards were often addressed to her though really intended for her parents; and she kept the Christmas card that Billy sent from England — the one now in the archives at Western. She also kept little figures of soldiers made out of yarn — khaki-coloured for the uniforms, yellow yarn for the leggings. Those little figures, she told me, were given to people who had donated money.

On his attestation paper, Billy Wilson gave his "trade or calling" as "student," and indicated that he had belonged to the University of Toronto Training Corps. He was six months beyond his twenty-fourth birthday, and he was six feet tall and weighed 160 pounds. He had blue eyes, fair hair, and a complexion described as "fair." There was a distinctive mark, a scar, on his right forearm near the elbow. He seems to have been an energetic and outgoing man: his physical development was rated as "good" and he was judged "fit" — unlike Uncle Frank.

On enlistment, he joined the artillery — the 25th Field Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, C.E.F. — as a driver, and, according to the University of Toronto Roll of Service 1914-1918 "was made Bombardier before going overseas in August." ("Bombardier" was a rank of non-commissioned officer in the artillery.) On August 18, 1915, he landed in Plymouth, England. His file from Library and Archives Canada gives no information about either his location or training in England, but on October 1, 1915, he was promoted to corporal. There is, however, one piece of evidence about this period of training. In Aunt Ruth Runnalls' photograph album is an undated photograph of a tent that looks like a teepee, with a vertical row of five heads in the front slit, and two men in front prone on the ground. It is from Billy Wilson, and on it he has written, "Hold up to light." Then one can see that he has written the surname of each man beside his head, with the notation, "The men in our unit at Otterpool." That was the camp near Hythe in Kent. Billy identifies the men, from top to bottom, as himself, Kilgore, Odell, Thompson and Pauquette; the two men on the ground are MacPherson (left) and Ward (right). Beside the photograph in her album my aunt has written, "Billy at top."

Among the things I discovered in my mother's papers was a 1915 Christmas card from Billy, then at a training camp at Westenhanger in Kent, England, to my grandparents. On the front of the card is the Canadian flag (the red ensign); a red, white and blue ribbon on the spine ties together the outer and inner parts of the card. Inside, under an emblem (a cannon surmounted by a crown, with the word "Canada" and the motto "Quo fas et gloria ducunt"), is the printed message: "Memory bridges / the distance between us / and / speeds my sincerest / wishes for Xmas / from / Bomb. W. T. Wilson / 25th Battery, 7th Brigade / Canadian Field Artillery, C. E. F. / Westenhanger / Xmas, 1915." A few weeks later Billy sent a postcard to my grandfather, Joseph Runnalls; on the front is a photograph of the "Marine Gardens, Folkestone"; the postmark is "Hythe"; and the written message is as follows: "Westenhanger Jan 12/16, Hello Mr. Runnalls, — I have been intending to write you people a letter ever since I came here but have failed to do so so I am writing this card instead. Hope this finds you all well as it leaves me. Am getting along fine — hope to be soon on the firing line. Remember me to Mrs. Runnalls and children. W. T. Wilson."

Four days after Billy sent that postcard, on January 16, 1916, he embarked for France. His wish to be "on the firing line" would soon be realized.

The brigade arrived at Havre, "up to strength in men and horses," according to the War Diaries, and the next day entrained for the Front, travelling through Rouen and Abbeville to Cassel and billets north of Caestre. There they remained while the O.C. with a small party visited the forward trenches at Dranoutre, for instruction. At the beginning of February, the Battery proceeded to Dranoutre and relieved various sections at the Front.

The War Diaries make repetitious reading, but also make vivid the realities of the war of attrition that the Great War had become by this time. The diarist typically records the weather for each day, and whether or not it affected the bombardment and shelling. There is little record of any ground gained by either side, and the usual entries describe a pattern of barrage and retaliation. For instance, "Line very quiet all night. At 4:20 a.m. we retaliated for enemy's shelling and silenced them" (5 May 1916); "normal retaliation for enemy's shelling carried on at intervals during the day" (6 May 1916); "we fired intermittently on soft spots, such as roads, HQs etc during the night which seemed to worry the enemy and keep him alert" (13 May 1916). A major responsibility of the Battery was support for raids carried out by the infantry. Secret Operation Order No. 28, for instance, was for a raid on the night of July 11 - 12. The objectives of the raid: "The enemy will be gassed, smoked out, shot up and raided." Things could go wrong: on July 27, for instance, a raid was postponed "as it was found that they had given artillery the wrong map reference of point to be attacked." Two days later, the raid was carried out, and "our fire was kept up till all the raiding party but one had returned ...." The one was a Captain

Kerwin, who was "observed ... to be lying in a shell hole near enemy wire." A rescue party was organized, and two men brought Kerwin back, under cover of fire from the Battery, described by the diarist as "very accurate." "Great appreciation for the support afforded was expressed by the Infantry."

The summer and fall of 1916 were the occasion of the Battle of the Somme, that long-drawn-out offensive in which neither side gained much ground and where the cost was many casualties. During that time, Billy was writing regular letters home, and they were occasionally reported in the Strathroy Age-Dispatch. For instance, on 10 August 1916 the paper noted that "In a letter received last week from Corp. Wm. Wilson, now in Belgium, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Wilson, the former expressed the belief that he would spend Christmas at his home here. Corp. Wilson is with the artillery, and he voices his discontent that he sees so little of the enemy and actual trench fighting."

Then winter weather set in, and the snow and ice at the end of January 1917 led the diarist to comment, "Not unlike Canadian weather." In early February, the brigade was in training at Ames, and on February 5 the diarist describes a typical day: "Training continues — The day's schedule for a battery is as follows: 6:15 a.m. Reveille. 6:30 Stables. 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Foot Drill — all ranks. 9:30 - 11:30 Drivers Exercise ride. Gunners — Gun Drill. Signallers — Signalling. 11:30 Stables. 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. Foot drill all ranks. 2:30 - 4:30 Gunners. Section Gun Drill. Drivers cleaning harness. Signallers — Signalling. 4:30 p.m. Stables. It is very cold and frosty."

The Brigade returned to action at the Front in mid-February, but the move, on February 16, was a difficult one. "It was very slippery. We were held up for a short time as road was congested .... We arrived at Camblain-L'Abbé at 3:00 p.m. There are no standings for horses and mud is awful. It started to rain this evening. ... All our guns went into action this evening." Conditions did not improve. On February 20, "Rain again. This is a rotten day. The wagon lines are in a terrible shape and getting worse as the mud seems to possess no bottom. The batteries are all using every man that is not needed to water the horses, to run the guns and build new Mort. positions. The batteries are firing about 300 rounds a night but it is quiet throughout the day. The trenches are in a bad shape and large parties are working on them every day so we do not fire as we do not want retaliation."

It was in this context that the Wilson brothers met up, as reported in an item in the Mount Brydges column in the Strathroy paper (15 March 1917) : "In a letter from Corp. William Wilson, of the field artillery, now in France, he states that he spent an hour with his brother, Pte. C. Wilson, who went overseas with the 135th Battalion and is now on active service in France. This is the first time the brothers (who are sons of Mr. R. Wilson, of the village) have met since leaving Canada and 'Billie' states that it was good to see 'Doc,' who was in the front line trenches when he visited him. Fritz gave them comparative quiet while they chatted an hour and a half away."

Another member of the Brigade was also writing home about his experiences. He was Lieutenant Thomas Irving Findley, and on January 27, 1917, he was "posted to this BDE and then to 25th Bty. for duty." He had, the diarist noted, formerly been with the brigade, in March and April, 1916. His letters, which his family preserved, typed, and bound, became the basis of one of the important texts in Canadian literature: his nephew, Timothy Findley, credits his uncle's correspondence as being the genesis of The Wars (1977), and with giving him a better sense of life in the trenches "than anything I could have found in the library." The letters were, Findley said, "my most valuable research resource" for the novel.

Billy Wilson was transferred away from the Front on February 20, 1917: "Struck off strength on proceeding to England for Temp. Commission in Can. Field Artillery and transferred to Reserve Bde CFA Shorncliffe." He arrived in Shorncliffe, on the southeast coast of Kent, on February 24, and his "Active Service" record gives the details of his moves to various units. On July 23, 1917, under "Record of Promotions," he was "To be Temp. Lieut. Can. Art." On August, 4, 1917, he "Ceases to be att to 'B' Batty and is att to 2nd Bde CRA for duty, rations, Quarters & Discipline" at Shorncliffe. On August 23, he was struck off strength "on appt. to comm. in CEF and posted to 2nd Bde. CRA." I am not sure when his appointment as Lieutenant became official, but Billy Wilson was now an officer in the Canadian Field Artillery.

On October 15, 1917, Billy left the camp at Witley and "Proceeded overseas to CFA France." On October 17, he was taken on strength and posted to the 6th Artillery Brigade, C.F.A. and assigned to the 25th battery. (John Keiller MacKay served in, and later commanded, the 6th Brigade, C.F.A. He would survive to become Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario in 1957.)

The struggle at Passchendaele was under way, and on October 28 the war diaries record that "preparation for second phase of Canadian assault on Passchendaele [was] carried on, mostly consisting of feint barrages & harassing fire." Ammunition and guns were brought up "under very great difficulties, barrages on Zonnebeke road very intense, & all ammunition has to be packed in by horses & mules, through intense shell fire & awful mud." Zero hour was set for 5:30 a.m. on October 30, and the diarist recorded that "in spite of the heavy shelling during the night, our batteries opened up in support of our advancing infantry who gained all their objectives. Barrage was in depth of 600 yds & lifted slowly by 50 yd lifts." On October 31, "Line now runs along western outskirts of Passchendaele.... 25th Battery moved forward. Enemy shelling very intense all day. All evening counter attacks driven off."



Then comes the War Diaries' sad entry for November 1, 1917: "Strenuous preparation being made for attack on Passchendaele. Canadians making great improvement in the road and duck-walk paths. The mud has greatly impeded both horses and men in transporting ammunition, many horses having had to be destroyed after being mired.... Casualties: Lieut W. T. Wilson, who was attached from the 15th Bty. to the 16th Battery, was killed this morning. This officer had just returned from England, where he had undergone a cadet course and received his commission. Before that he had done excellent work in France as Corporal in the 25th Battery. One other rank killed and one wounded." The University of Toronto roll of service gives one more detail about Billy's death: "his battery was answering an S.O.S. call."

Billy Wilson was buried in the New Military Cemetery (grave reference XII. E. 4) at Vlamertinghe, Belgium, a village about five kilometers west of Ypres. His grave marker includes the words "Age 27" and "I Fought The Good Fight" under the usual maple leaf and cross.

The Strathroy paper for 8 November 1917 carried two notices of his death. One describes him as "an ex-student of the Strathroy Collegiate Institute, ... well known to many of our citizens. ... His death is sorely regretted by a host of warm friends in the district." The other notice is in the paper's Mt. Brydges column: "R. Wilson, mail carrier, has received official word that his eldest son, Lieut. William T. Wilson, was killed in action somewhere in France on November 1st. Lieut. Wilson enlisted in the 28th Battery from Toronto University on March 16, 1915. He went to France in January, 1916, but back to England in February, 1917. He had just returned to France a short time. His mother received a letter from him last Saturday telling her he was well."

There is an intriguing detail in Wilson's file. On September 1, 1917, he assigned his monthly pay to Miss Pearl Willsie of Mount Brydges. A parenthesis describes her as a "friend." Was there a romantic attachment? I can only guess. Pearl was close to Billy's age — she was born on March 22, 1891 — and after Billy was killed she married a Caradoc township man, Clarence Veale. They had one son, Grant. Pearl lived to the age of eighty-eight, and died in 1979.

Billy Wilson's name appears on the cenotaph in Mount Brydges and on the plaque in the Middlesex Tower on University College at Western. It is also in the Book of Remembrance (page 352) in the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa. His parents ensured that their two oldest boys were remembered in a more personal way, however. When they set up their stone in Mount Brydges Cemetery, probably after Clarence's death and burial, their sons' names were carved at the top of the stone, above theirs: 'WILSON / At Rest / Lieut. W. T. Wilson / 16th Battery C.F.A. / Killed in Belgium / 1890 - 1917 / Clarence H. Wilson / 1899 - 1921 / Ralph Wilson / 1855 - 1940 / His Wife / Mary Tully / 1863 - 1945. Pearl Willsie lies a few feet away, in the Veale plot.

## Sources

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

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