

Arthur Wynne Williams
Private
16th Btn Canadian Infantry (Manitoba
Regiment)
Scottish (Infantry) Regiment
Service no. 16832



Right: 16th Battalion Canadian Regimental cap badge. Motto: Deas Gu Cath 'Ready for the Fray' courtesy of Shoulder-to-Shoulder.net

Date of birth	Date KIA	Age
20 Jan 1892	8 August* 1918	26

Background: Arthur Wynne Williams

Arthur was born in East Barkwith, Lincoln and was the youngest son of Robert Owen Williams (1862-1944) and Clementina E. Williams (née Knight), (1860-1947) of The Dower House, Easton, Lincs. The 1901 Census for Wragby, Horncastle shows:

Robert O. Williams Landowners Agent aged 39yrs born Denbigh, N Wales

Clementine E Williams 40yrs b. Langar, Manchester

Arthur W 8 yrs b. East Barkwith

Plus a domestic servant

1911 Census: Parents (listed as having 4 children, all alive) are at Hartley Lodge, Sewell's Road, Lincoln. Only 1 daughter, 25-year-old Eira Knight Williams (b. Denbigh), is with them. Plus 2 servants.

The 1916 trade directory sees the Williams family in Crescent House, Low St., Collingham (they were not listed in 1912 or 1918 so it was a brief spell in Collingham). According to Trevor Frecknall's book 'Collingham and District in The Great War p 127 – father & (possibly) son were employed by Smith Woolley & Wigam. Robert Williams was probably brought in to replace Smith Woolley staff such as Gowrie Aitchison and Thomas Woolley who had enlisted in 1914. Arthur emigrated to Canada (date unknown but before the outbreak of war) where his qualifications as a surveyor would have made him useful and in demand at the time.



Military History: Private Arthur W. Williams

From Williams' attestation paper:

- Enlisted: August 1914
- Signed up in Manitoba, Canada 17th Sept 1914:
- Parents address at that time – Nettleham Road, Lincoln.
- Occupation - Surveyor
- Was in a militia but not named
- 5ft 5inches tall
- 38 inch waist
- Brown hair
- Blue eyes
- Not Married
- Church of England

16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force

This was raised at Valcartier Camp, Quebec, on 2nd September 1914 and composed of recruits from the 91st Canadian Highlanders (Argyll and Sutherland), the 79th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and the 50th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders).

The 16th Battalion served in the 3rd Canadian Brigade as part of the 1st Division. They trained on Salisbury Plain from 14th October 1914 and were mobilised to France in February 1915. They participated in some of the heaviest fighting in the war, including major battles at Ypres and on the Somme.

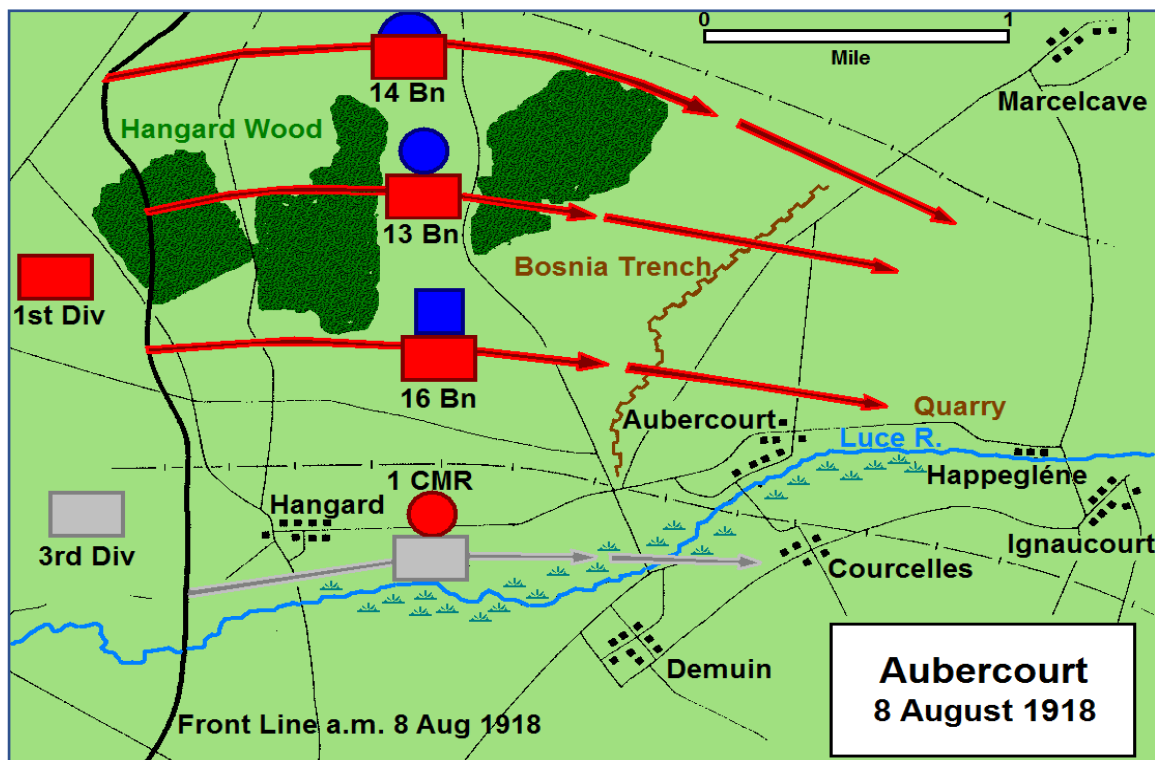
APPENDIX VI COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS SERVING WITH THE 16th BATTALION THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH

At organization, Valcartier, P.Q., September, 1914:			From organization to demobilization:		
	Officers	Other Ranks		Officers	Other Ranks
Canada	22	175	Canada	124	1,560
England	11	435	England	69	1,720
Scotland	9	391	Scotland	44	1,234
Ireland	1	42	Ireland	9	185
Wales .....	..	9	Wales	8	59
New Zealand	1	..	New Zealand	1	..
United States of America	2	15	United States of America	7	185
Sundry .....	..	49	Sundry	6	280
	46	1,116		268	5,223

Above: Table showing the countries of birth of those serving with the 16th Battalion. Like Williams, most recruits were born in England or Scotland Source: Urquhart 1932

Pte Williams' service record is available to view on the regimental history's pdf (see under 'sources'). It shows he was in France from 6th June 1915.

Battle of Amiens 8th- 17th August.



Above: Sketch map of the area around the River Luce showing the direction of the 16th Battalion on the morning of August 8th the first day of The Battle of Amiens Image courtesy of CanadianSoldiers.com website

Williams was killed on the first day of this battle which was the start of the **'100 Days Offensive'** that eventually led to the end of the war. The 16th Canadians were in an area near the marshy banks of the River Luce, surrounded by chalk pits and ripening rye and wheat fields. Their objective was to attack the Green Line beyond Bosnia Trench. By all accounts they were successful and their early morning start took many of the German platoons in their various outposts by surprise. However, one Canadian platoon, under the leadership of a Captain MacClellan, rounded a bend in the Aubercourt Road and was met by heavy machine gun fire coming from a nearby quarry. Being exposed, they were easily targeted. *'Before the men could disperse nine out of the fourteen were hit.'*¹ Was one of the nine Arthur Williams?

¹ Urquhart p 275

The regimental history called the success in this battle, where the 16th Battalion managed to push the Front Line forward by about 12 km and took many Germans prisoner, a turning point. *'The occasion which brought home to the German high command the breakdown of its armies' morale – the beginning of the end.'*

The victory came at a heavy cost – Williams was one of 22,000 British Expeditionary Forces casualties from the 9-day offensive.

APPENDIX III

Dates Periods and Nature of Operations	Fronts	Officers				Other Ranks				Grand Total
		K. in A. D. of W. Pre. Dead	Wounded	P. of W.	Total	K. in A. D. of W. Pre. Dead	Wounded	P. of W.	Total	
1918										
Feb. 13th (Raid)...	Loos (Hill 70)....	.....	2	.....	2	1	11	.....	12	14
Feb. 25th-Mar. 13th (Trenches)	Lens, St. Emile....	4	3	.....	7	15	31	.....	46	53
Mar. 29th-May 5th. (Trenches)	Arras, Telegraph Hill, Gavrelle	.....	2	1	3	6	36	1	43	46
April 28th (Raid)...	Gavrelle.....	1	2	.....	3	4	15	.....	19	22
July 18th-Aug. 1st. (Trenches)	Telegraph Hill Sec- tor.	.....	1	.....	1	1	12	.....	13	14
July 28th (Raid)...	Tilloy.....	1	.....	.....	1	4	17	.....	21	22
Aug. 8th (Battle)...	Amiens.....	2	4	.....	6	44	102	.....	146	152
Aug. 9th-15th..... (Support) to the attack.	Amiens Front..... Beaufort, Rouv- roy.	1	1	.....	2	19	37	.....	56	58
Aug. 16th (Battle)...	Parvillers.....	3	.....	.....	3	15	33	9	57	60
Aug. 17th-22nd..... Holding Battle area.	Amiens Front.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	15	.....	26	26
Aug. 26th-Sept. 1st. (Support) to the attack.	Arras Front, Beau- raines-Hende- court Area.	1	2	.....	3	7	34	.....	41	44
Sept. 2nd (Battle)...	Drocourt-Queant...	5	7	.....	12	36	106	.....	142	154
Sept. 3rd-30th..... (Support) to the attack.	Canal du Nord....	1	1	.....	2	16	13	.....	29	31
Oct. 1st (Battle)...	Canal du Nord- Cuvillers.	5	7	.....	12	77	187	69	333	345
Oct. 10th-21st..... (Battle)	Final Advance.....	.....	1	.....	1	4	27	.....	31	32

Above: Casualty List of the 16th Battalion Canadian (Scottish) Reg Feb-Oct 1918. The 5th column across shows there were 44 killed on August 8th in total and two officers. Source: Urquhart 1932

Two days after Arthur Williams was killed, another local who emigrated to Canada, John William Hickman from Brough, a private with the 44th Canadians, also died in action (see separate profile). Fred East, a native of South Scarle and Collingham, was killed in action on October 8th 1916 fighting for the 43rd Battalion Canadians.

Private Arthur Wynne Williams is remembered on the Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France 1.A.10 and North Collingham Roll of Honour and War Memorial Cross*

*The Names of the Fallen for N. Collingham service sheet for the unveiling of the War Memorial lists (held in Collingham Archives) Pte Williams as being killed on 8th October. He was, in fact, killed on 8th August.



With thanks to Jeremy Lodge for his initial research 2014 and Michael Dorosh (Canadian Soldiers.com) for permission to use his map of Aubercourt.

Sources:

Books:

- 🕒 The History of the 16th Battalion Canadian Scottish in the Great War by Lt Col H M Urquhart DSO MC ACD published 1932 (access the entire history as a pdf here: http://www.electriccanadian.com/forces/The_History_of_the_16th_Battalion.pdf) Accessed March 27th 2018
- 🕒 Collingham and District during The Great War T Frecknall 2015

Websites:

- 🕒 Ancestry.co.uk for census returns and Pte Williams' attestation paper
- 🕒 Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour database
- 🕒 Wikipedia (JL)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16th_Battalion_\(Canadian_Scottish\),_CEF#/media/File:Canadian_Scottish_at_Canal_du_Nord_Sept_1918_IWM_CO_3289.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16th_Battalion_(Canadian_Scottish),_CEF#/media/File:Canadian_Scottish_at_Canal_du_Nord_Sept_1918_IWM_CO_3289.jpg)
- 🕒 Canadian Soldiers.com (map)
<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/history.htm>
- 🕒 Shoulder-to-Shoulder.net (insignia <http://shoulder-to-shoulder.net/Product/1217>)

HP 2/4/2018