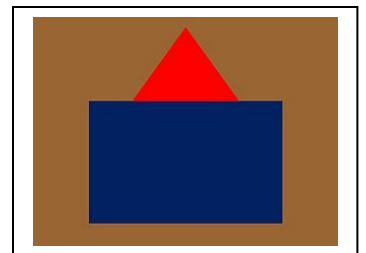




Gunner Enoch B. Adey (Number 68286) of the 25th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*) then of the 5th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, Canadian Expeditionary Force, lies in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Grave reference II.B.9.

(Right: *The image of the 25th Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles) shoulder flash is from the Wikipedia Web-site.*)



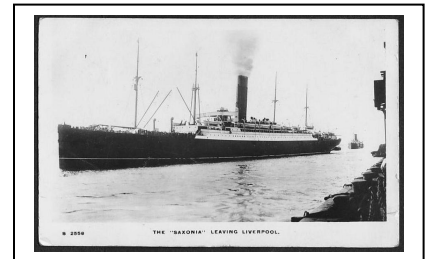
(continued)

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a miner, Enoch Adey may have been the young man who sailed from Port aux Basques in the Dominion of Newfoundland, on August 15 of 1911, on board the SS *Invermore*, to North Sydney, Cape Breton, in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. If this is indeed the Enoch Adey of this biography, he then, from there on some unrecorded date, found his way to the community of Glace Bay where he was employed in the mines.

Enoch Adey enlisted in Glace Bay on February 22 of 1915, a first medical report confirming this date. It also documents him having been temporarily *taken on strength* by the 40th Battalion (*Nova Scotia*). One month later, on March 24, the by-then Private Adey passed a further medical examination before being attested on the 31st of that same month. On April 14 it was the Officer Commanding the 40th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Lieutenant A.G. Vincent, who declared (on paper) that... *having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this attestation.*

Only two days later again, Private Adey was transferred to the 25th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*) with which unit he was to serve until March of 1916.

On May 20, 1915, His Majesty's Transport *Saxonia* departed Halifax with on board the 22nd and the 25th Battalions of the Canadian Infantry, as well as a part of the 2nd Divisional Ammunition Park. *Saxonia*, perhaps sailing in tandem with *Missanabie* which is reported as having left port on the same day, arrived in the English south coast naval port of Plymouth-Devonport at ten minutes past four in the morning of May 29, some nine days later.



(Right above: *Saxonia* leaving Liverpool – from the *Old Ship Picture Galleries* web-site)

From Devonport the Canadians entrained for the large Canadian military complex of *Shorncliffe*, being established some two miles (three kilometres) down the Dover Straits from the harbour and town of Folkestone in the county of Kent. It was there that the units which were to form the Canadian 2nd Division were being sent for final training before their despatch to the Continent.



It was while there at *Shorncliffe*, on June 11, that Private Adey was admitted into the Moore Barracks Military Hospital, his Medical Case Sheet citing *Deafness* as the reason; two days later, a further report offered a little more detail:

Pain in ear about five days ago with deafness which persists although pain is but slight.

(Right above: *Little remains of Shorncliffe Military Camp today apart from a barracks occupied by Gurkha troops. The Military Cemetery almost alone serves as a reminder of the events of a century ago.* – photograph from 2016)

Having been admitted on the 11th, Private Adey was discharged *to duty* a brief three days later, on June 14. Nothing further appears to be recorded.

Three months later, the date September 15, the 25th Battalion left *Shorncliffe Camp* in the late afternoon and marched to Folkestone where the unit boarded ship for the short crossing to the Continent. Sailing at ten o'clock that same evening, the troops disembarked in the French port of Boulogne two hours later, at one o'clock in the morning*.



(Right above: *A view of the coastal town of Folkestone almost a century later as seen from the top of the white cliffs of nearby Dover – photograph from 2009*)

(Right: *The French port of Boulogne at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)



**There is a one-hour time difference between the United Kingdom and France.*

Later on that same day, September 16, after too few hours of rest, the 25th Battalion marched to meet transport which was to take them into northern France, not far from the frontier with Belgium, and not far distant from the community of Hazebrouck.

(Right: *While the caption reads that these troops moving up to the 'front' are 'English', this could refer to any unit in British uniform – including Empire (Commonwealth) units. This is early in the war – before mid-1916 - as there is no sign of any steel helmets. – from a vintage post-card*)



By September 23, the Nova Scotia Unit was relieving the 2nd Battalion, the King's Own, in trenches close to the Franco-Belgian border.

There the 25th Battalion remained for the following eleven months adapting to the rigours and the routines of trench warfare*. The Battalion War Diary reports a steady incurrence of casualties from enemy artillery, from sniping and from the explosion of enemy mines under the Canadian positions. On the other hand, the Diary documents little infantry action of any consequence during this period**.

**During the Great War, British and Empire (later Commonwealth) battalions had their time more or less equally divided into three postings: in theory a week was to be spent in the front lines, at times little more than a few metres separating them from the enemy forward positions; a second week was then served in support positions, perhaps a hundred metres or so behind the front; the unit was then withdrawn into reserve – either Brigade, Divisional or Corps Reserve, the former nearest to the forward area, the latter the furthest away.*

(continued)

Of course, things were never as neat and tidy as set out in the preceding format and troops could find themselves in a certain position at times for weeks on end.

(Right: A photograph of Canadian troops in support positions somewhere on the Somme in the autumn of, 1916, only months earlier having been equipped with those steel helmets and less visible British short Fee-Enfield Mark III rifles – from Illustration)



The 25th Battalion was to be involved at the Action of the St-Éloi Craters and then somewhat peripherally at Mount Sorrel in April and June of 1916; but by that time, Private Adey had been transferred and was Gunner Adey.

For whatever the reason, Private Adey was transferred on March 12 of 1916, from the 25th Infantry Battalion to the 5th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade. Two days before Private (now-Gunner) Adey's transfer, the Brigade had moved from the area of Neuve-Chapelle to Kemmel*, behind and adjacent to the positions of the 25th Battalion.

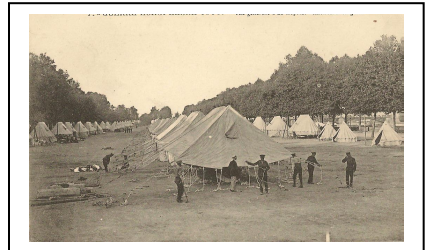


(Right above: Men of the Canadian Artillery replacing worn parts of a heavy gun somewhere in Flanders – from Le Miroir)

**Kemmel is to be found in that part of southern Belgium known as Flanders.*

The 5th Brigade War Diarist, for the entire period of March 17 to 26 inclusive, did not see fit to enter anything other than... *nothing of importance.*

However, something of importance to Gunner Adey apparently transpired on either the 19th or just after midnight in the early hours of the 20th: He was wounded in the back and eventually evacuated to the 8th Casualty Clearing Station at Bailleul.



(Right above: A British casualty clearing station – the one pictured here under canvas for mobility if and when the necessity arose – being established somewhere in France during the early years of the War – from a vintage post-card)

The son of Joseph P. (Pascoe?) Adey of Adeytown (formerly Lee – or Lee's - Bight), Random, Trinity Bay – the family likely originally from Hants Harbour – and possibly brother to Jane, he was reported as having *died of wounds** at ten minutes past three in the morning of March 20, 1916, in the same 8th CCS.

**He is also recorded elsewhere as having been killed in action, perhaps suggesting that he was pronounced dead upon arrival at the CCS.*

(continued)

Enoch Adey had enlisted at the *apparent* age of twenty-two years and two months: date of birth (from attestation papers) in Adeytown (also found among his papers as *Adytown*), Newfoundland, January 1, 1893.

Gunner Enoch B. Adey was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to criceadam@yahoo.ca. Last updated – January 25, 2023.

