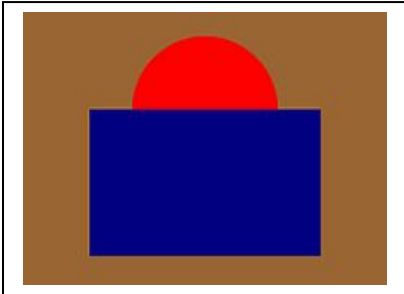




Private William Ambrose Chafe the 24th Canadian Infantry Rifles), Canadian Expeditionary known last resting-place, is the stone of the Menin Gate, Panel reference, 24-26-28-30.



(Number 1054688) of Battalion (Victoria Force, having no commemorated on Ypres (today Ieper):

(Right: The image of the Battalion (Victoria Rifles) is

shoulder-patch of the 24th from the Wikipedia web-site.)

On May 6 of 1916, William Ambrose Chafe travelled from Port aux Basques in the Dominion of Newfoundland, on board the SS Kyle to North Sydney, Cape Breton, in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. He was apparently on his way to Montreal – continuing his journey to there by train – where he was to be employed as a telegraph operator. The Great War intervened and, some seven months later, he was in the Canadian Army.

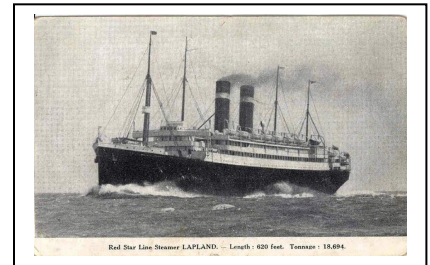
(continued)

Having presented himself for medical examination in Montreal on December 7 later that year, William Chafe also enlisted and attested on that same date. His first pay records of that December 7 also record that he was taken then *taken on strength* by the 244th (*Kitchener's Own*) Overseas Battalion, a new formation which was at the time in the first throes of organization in Montreal.

On March 16 of 1917 Private Chafe wrote a will in which he left his everything to his father. It was customary for soldiers to do so either before they proceeded overseas or, if already in the United Kingdom, before they left for the Continent and for *active service*.

Not long afterwards he was also to allot to his father a monthly allocation of twenty dollars from his pay, a payment which began on May 1 of that same 1917.

It was less than two weeks later again that he *did*, in fact, set sail for the United Kingdom. Private Chafe, one of the six-hundred four *other ranks* and twenty-seven officers of the 244th Battalion, having travelled by train from Montreal, embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Lapland* in the harbour at Halifax on March 25. It was to be a further three days before the vessel sailed, on March 28, 1917.



Private Chafe and the 244th Battalion were not the only ones taking passage on *Lapland* for the trans-Atlantic crossing. Also on board the ship were the 149th and the 186th Battalions of Canadian Infantry.

(Right above: *The photograph of the SS Lapland is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries Web-site.*)

After ten days at sea, *Lapland* docked in the English west-coast port of Liverpool, on April 7. On the day of its arrival, the draft was immediately transported southwards by train to Shoreham Camp on the East Sussex coast where it was temporarily absorbed by the 22nd Canadian (*Reserve*) Battalion.

Some two weeks later – the CEF Study Group says on April 21, Private Chafe's own files cite April 24 (as do other sources) – the same draft was then transferred to the recently-reorganized 23rd Canadian (*Reserve*) Battalion based at Shorncliffe, adjacent to the English-Channel town and harbour of Folkestone in the county of Kent.



(Right: *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 1916*)

It was to be only some five weeks later again, on or about May 27, that Private Chafe was *struck off strength* by the 23rd (*Reserve*) Battalion and attached to the 24th Battalion (*Victoria Rifles*) of the Canadian Infantry.

(continued)

This transfer was, of course, only on paper as the 24th Battalion was already serving on the Continent, but in practical terms it meant that Private Chafe was one of a re-enforcement draft which was to cross the English Channel to France on that day – likely sailing from the nearby English-Channel harbour at Folkestone to Boulogne, on the French coast almost opposite - to be forwarded to a Canadian Base Depot* – of which by this period in the war there were four, all established in the vicinity of the French coastal town of Étapes.

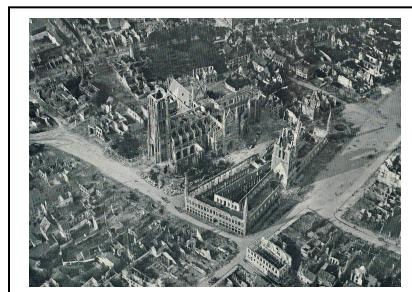
**Likely it was the 2nd Canadian Base Depot since the 24th Battalion was a unit of the 2nd Canadian Division.*

There Private Chafe remained for a further five days before being despatched on June 2, 1917, to seek out the parent unit of the 24th Battalion in the field.

* * * * *

A component of the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade, itself an element of the Canadian 2nd Division, the 24th Battalion (*Victoria Rifles*) was a Montreal-based unit with a Canadian Militia background which dated back to 1862.

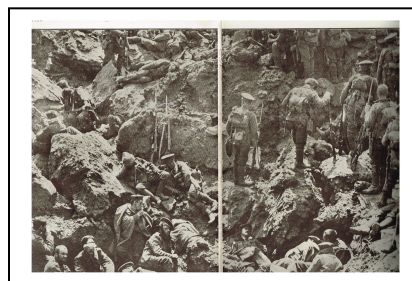
The Battalion had sailed to Great Britain from Canada in May of 1915, and had been transferred to France, then almost immediately to Belgium, in September of the same year, there to serve in a sector to the south of the *Ypres Salient* where the front progressed southward towards the Franco-Belgian frontier. The 2nd Canadian Division was to remain in this area for the following eleven months.



(Right above: *An aerial photograph, taken in July of 1915, which shows the shell of the medieval city of Ypres, an image entitled Ypres-la-Morte (Ypres the Dead) – By the end of the conflict there was little left standing. – from Illustration*)

In early April, 1916, the 2nd Canadian Division underwent its baptism of fire in a major infantry operation. It was at a place called St-Éloi where, on the 27th day of March, the British had detonated a series of mines under the German lines and then followed up with an infantry attack. The role of the newly-arrived Canadian formation was to later pursue the presumed British success, to hold and consolidate the newly-won territory.

However, the damage done to the terrain by the explosions, the often putrid weather which turned the newly-created craters into ponds and the earth into a quagmire, and then a resolute German defence, greeted the Canadian newcomers who were to begin to take over from the by-then exhausted British on April 3-4.



Two weeks later the Germans had won back the lost territory and had inflicted severe losses on the Canadians.

(continued)

(Preceding page: *An attack in the aftermath of the exploding of a mine under enemy lines – from Illustration*)

The *Action of the St. Eloi Craters* had not been a happy experience for the novice Canadians. The 24th Battalion, however, according to its War Diary, had not been heavily involved and most of its casualties at the time had been due to artillery fire. Apart from repelling a German bombing party on April 15, the unit had been engaged in very little of the infantry action.

Following this episode there was to be the confrontation with the German Army at *Mount Sorrel*. This had involved mainly the newly-arrived Canadian 3rd Division but a number of other units had subsequently played a role.

On June 2 the Germans had attacked the only high ground in the *Ypres Salient* which remained under British (and thus, in this case, Canadian) control. This was just to the south-east of the city of Ypres itself, the area including the village of *Hooge*, *Sanctuary Wood*, *Railway Dugouts*, *Hill 60*, *Maple Copse* and also the promontory which since that time has lent its name – in English, at least - to the action: *Mount Sorrel*.



(Right above: *Remnants of Canadian trenches dating from 1915-1916 at Sanctuary Wood – photograph from 2010*)

The enemy, preceded by an intense barrage, had overrun the forward Canadian positions and for a while had breached the Canadian lines. However, the Germans had been unable to exploit their success and the Canadians were able to patch up their defences. The hurriedly-contrived counter-strike of the following day, delivered piece-meal and poorly co-ordinated, was a costly disaster for the Canadians.



(Right above: *The Canadian memorial which stands atop Mount Sorrel just to the south-west of the city of Ypres (today Ieper) whose spires and towers may be perceived in the distance. – photograph from 1914*)

The 24th Battalion was not to play a leading part in the action at *Mount Sorrel*. Uninvolved during the early days, the unit moved forward into the front-line trenches in the area of *Maple Copse* on June 7, there to remain until relieved on the 11th. Thus neither did it participate in the closing stages of the confrontation on October 12-13.

The Battalion was not to escape without casualties however. Once again, as at *St-Éloi*, these were caused mostly by German gun-fire, particularly at the time when it was moving forward towards *Maple Copse* on the 7th, one platoon incurring twenty-three casualties in a single extremely heavy bombardment and thus practically ceasing to exist.

(continued)

(Right below: *Maple Copse, the scene of heavy fighting in June of 1916, and its cemetery wherein lie numerous Canadians – photograph from 2014*)

From then until the final week of August the 24th Battalion again resumed the rigours and routines of life in the trenches*. Often the war diaries of this period refer to... *quiet days... front quieter than normal...* – although, of course, everything is relative. After the exertions of Mount Sorrel, any infantry activity was on a local level and limited to patrols and raids and most casualties were due to artillery and to sniping.



****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.***



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 above: *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 Lee-Enfield Mark III Rifles – from Illustration*)

On August 25 the 24th Battalion withdrew entirely from the *Ypres Salient* to the area of Steenvoorde where new training-grounds had been established.

Further to the south, the British summer offensive was not progressing as well as planned and losses had been heavy: help in the form of troops from the Commonwealth was already being ordered by the High Command.



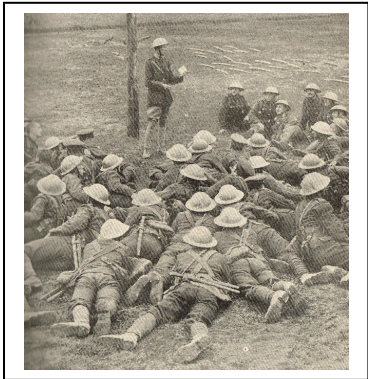
By that September of 1916, the *First Battle of the Somme* had been ongoing for two months. It had begun with the disastrous attack of July 1, an assault costing the British Army fifty-seven thousand casualties – in the space of four short hours - of which some nineteen-thousand dead.

(Right above: *The Canadian Memorial which stands to the side of the Albert-Bapaume Road near the village of Courcelette – photograph from 2015*)

(continued)

On that first day of *1st Somme*, all but two small units of the attacking divisions had been troops from the British Isles, those exceptions being the two-hundred men of the Bermuda Rifles serving in the Lincolnshire Regiment, and those eight-hundred personnel of the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment which was to lose so heavily on that morning at Beaumont-Hamel.

(Right: *An image purporting to be that of a Canadian officer giving instructions to those under his command prior to the attack at Flers-Courcelette (see below), September 1916. – from The War Illustrated*)



As the battle had progressed, other troops, from the Empire (*Commonwealth*), were brought in; at first it had been the South African Brigade (July 15), then the Australians and New Zealanders (July 23) before the Canadians entered the fray on August 30 to become part of a third general offensive. Their first major contribution was to be in the area of the two villages of Flers and Courcelette.

Meanwhile, ten days after its retirement from Belgium and into north-western France for training, on September 4 the 24th Battalion had left its billets at Éperlecques and marched to the railway station at Arques. There it had boarded a train for the journey to Conteville, just over one-hundred kilometres distant, arriving at its destination at five-thirty on the following morning. The unit then marched some five kilometres to its billets.



(Right: *Canadian soldiers at work in Albert, the already-damaged basilica in the background – from Illustration*)

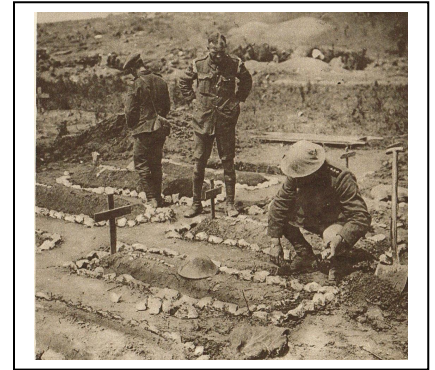
On the next day again, September 6, the Battalion had started to march at eight-thirty in the morning – billeted each night on the way - to arrive four days later, September 10, at the large military encampment of the *Brickfields (La Briqueterie)*, in close proximity to the provincial town of Albert.

During the next several days the unit was occupied in a number of tasks, among them burying cable, cleaning trenches and training. On September 15 and 16, while other battalions were engaged in the ongoing offensive, the 24th Battalion had been ordered to carry ammunition, rations, stretchers and supplies forward. On the evening of September 16 it had moved into close support, allowing the 26th Battalion to move up to the front line.

At half-past mid-day on September 17, the unit had received orders to deliver an attack later that afternoon on the German front line, an assault which began at five-thirty in the afternoon.

(continued)

The operation had had mixed results – and heavy casualties - and the War Diarist wrote the following scathing paragraph in his entry of that day: *With regard to this attack, if the Artillery preparation had been in any way adequate, there is no doubt but that the objective would have been obtained along the whole line. As it was, a barrage was put up approximately 500 yards in rear of the German front line, which merely served to warn the enemy that an attack would probably be launched, and they were able when our men advanced, to stand up on their parapets and shoot them down.*



By the 18th the Battalion was back at Brickfields: total casualties of *all ranks* during the preceding days, three-hundred twenty.

(Right above: *Burying Canadian dead on the Somme, likely at a casualty clearing station or a field ambulance – from Illustration or Le Miroir*)



(Right above: *Evacuating Canadian casualties after the battle – somewhere on the Somme – from Illustration or Le Miroir*)

On September 28, the unit was back in the line once more, on this occasion having been ordered to make an attack on the so-called enemy *Regina Trench* system. The attack was one of several such to fail and *Regina Trench* was not to be taken definitively until November 11, some six weeks later. The 24th Battalion's operation had cost a further two-hundred four casualties all told.



(Right above: *Regina Trench Cemetery and some of the area surrounding it, finally wrested from the Germans by Canadian troops in November of 1916 – photograph from 2014*)

On October 2, the remnants of the 24th Battalion (*Victoria Rifles*) had begun its withdrawal from the *First Battle of the Somme*. It had marched westward before turning northward, passing in a semi-circular fashion behind the city of Arras, then continuing in the direction of the mining centre of Lens, to be stationed in the suburbs, in the Angres Sector*.

**This implies only a certain military area, not a specific place or even trench system. During this time the personnel would have followed a calendar of front-line, support and reserve duties as outlined earlier.*

(Right: *The city of Arras was to endure four years of bombardment during the Great War; the Grand'Place (Grande Place) already looked like this by March of 1917 and more was to follow. – from Le Miroir*)



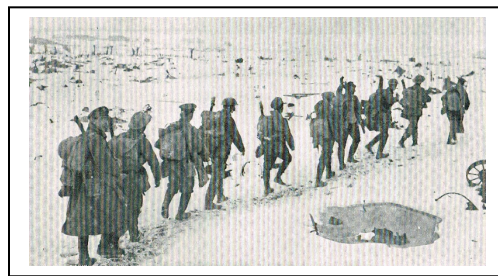
(continued)

The Battalion had remained in the Angres Sector from October 15 of 1916 until January 17 of the New Year, 1917, before having been posted to - and billeted in - the town of Bruay, well to the rear. It was to remain there for almost an entire month.

The winter of 1916-1917 for the Canadian infantry was one of the everyday grind of life in and out of the trenches. There was to be little if any concerted infantry activity apart from the constant patrolling and the occasional raids by both sides.

Many of the units were withdrawn in rotation to rest - but also to train - in the rear areas of the sectors which stretched from Béthune in the north to Arras in the south, this being the part of the front for which the Canadians since 1st Somme had become responsible.

(Right: *A detachment of Canadian troops going forward during the winter of 1916-1917 - from Illustration*)



And then it was to serve for even more than a month in the *La Folie* Sector, from February 11 until March 22. On the next day, the 24th Battalion had been transferred to Maisnil Bouche where, on the morrow... *Day spent cleaning up and getting ready for special training.* This training and preparation for the coming offensive had continued until the afternoon of April 7. The entire day of the 8th had been spent moving to the forward area but, apparently owing to the poor condition of the communication trenches, the troops had not taken their place in the jumping-off positions until one o'clock in the morning of April 9: four and a-half hours to wait.

On April 9 of 1917 the British Army launched an offensive in the area to the north of *the Somme* battlefields; this was the so-called *Battle of Arras*, intended to support a French effort elsewhere. In terms of the daily count of casualties, some four thousand per day, it was to be the most expensive operation of the War for the British, one of the few positive episodes being the Canadian assault of Vimy Ridge on the opening day of the battle, Easter Monday.

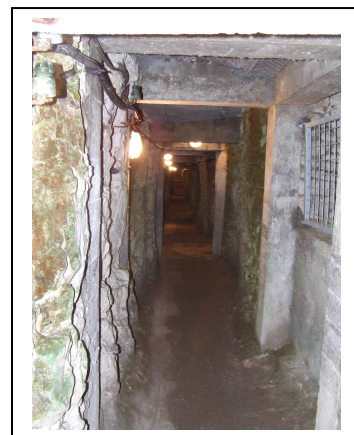


While the British campaign proved to be an overall disappointment, the French offensive was a disaster.

(Right above: *the Canadian National Memorial which, since 1936, stands on Vimy Ridge - photograph from 2010*)

On that April 9, in driving snow, the four Canadian Divisions, for the first time acting as a single, autonomous, entity, had stormed the slope of Vimy Ridge, by the end of the next day having cleared it almost entirely of its German occupants*.

(Right: *Grange Tunnel - one of the few remaining galleries still open to the public at Vimy one hundred years later. - photograph*)



from 2008(?))

(Right: *Canadian troops of the 4th or 3rd Division equipped with all the paraphernalia of war on the advance across No-Man's-Land during the attack at Vimy Ridge on either April 9 or 10 of 1917 - from Illustration)*



**While Battalions of the Canadian 3rd and 4th Divisions attacked the Ridge itself, the 2nd Canadian Division had the responsibility of clearing the slope to the south, including the village of Thélus.*

On April 9 the 24th Battalion had incurred a total of two-hundred forty-one casualties.

Then on April 10 the Canadians had finished clearing the area of Vimy Ridge of the few remaining pockets of resistance and had begun to consolidate the area in anticipation of the habitual German counter-attacks.

There had been, on those two days, the opportunity to advance through the shattered enemy defences – the highly-touted breakthrough – but such a follow-up after the previous day's success proved impossible. Thus the Germans had closed the breach and the conflict once more had reverted to one of inertia.

The remainder of the relatively short, five-week long, *Battle of Arras* was not to be fought in the manner of the first two days and by the end of those five weeks little else had changed and the Germans had recovered from the initial Canadian success.

* * * * *

It was on June 1, 1917, that the 24th Battalion had retired from the area of Thelus, just to the south-east of the Ridge itself, and had withdrawn to Camblain l'Abbé in order to rest. On June 5 a draft of one-hundred sixty-one *other ranks* from the Base Depot – Private Chafe among that number - arrived to report *to duty*.

For that entire month of June the 24th Battalion remained stationed at Camblain l'Abbé to the north-west of the city of Arras – and also of Vimy. It was surely a welcome respite for those who had been in and out of action since that April 9. However, there was all too soon to be a return to the routine of life in the trenches since the last entry for June in the Battalion War Diary notes: *Getting ready for moving to the trenches on the 1st of July.*

The British High Command had by this time decided to undertake a summer offensive in the *Ypres Salient*, Belgium. Thus, in order to divert the Germans' attention – and their reserves - from this area, it had ordered operations to take place in the sectors of the front running north-south from Béthune to Lens.



(continued)

The Canadians were to be a major contributor to this effort.

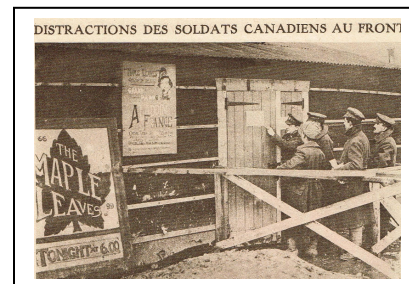
(Preceding page: *An example of the conditions under which the troops were ordered to fight in the area of Lens during the summer of 1917 – from Le Miroir*)

(Right: *Canadian troops advancing across No-Man's Land in the summer of 1917 – from Le Miroir*)



From July 2, the day on which the 24th Battalion returned into Brigade Support at Lievin – a western suburb of the mining centre of Lens – until July 23 when the unit was withdrawn further afield, Private Chafe was to undergo his first authentic experience of life in the trenches, those twenty-one days all to be spent within artillery range of the enemy. And despite there being no infantry action reported, apart from the habitual sporadic patrolling by both sides, the 24th Battalion War Diarist documented a total of sixty-four casualties during that period.

The Canadian operations in the area of the city of Lens had apparently been planned for the month of July, but poor weather had necessitated the postponement of the attack. Thus it was that the 24th Battalion – a component of the Canadian 5th Infantry Brigade – spent the first twelve days of that August encamped behind the lines, not only in training but also indulging in sports and apparently enjoying the occasional concert.



(Right above: *Canadian soldiers at an unidentified camp on the Continent perusing the program of an upcoming concert – from Le Miroir*)

On August 13 all that was to change and at six-thirty that evening the 24th Battalion was ordered to move forward into the support area. Its numbers were by now even more depleted, likely from sickness, than they had been two weeks previously – twenty-one officers and five-hundred seventy-two *other ranks* – at about sixty per cent of regulation battalion strength.

The city and mining-centre of Lens was partially surrounded by a number of suburbs called *cités*, each *cité* being based around a series of pits or *fosses* although, of course, during the Great War, there was no mining activity. The 24th Battalion was ordered forward into the Cité St-Pierre, situated to the north of Lens, from where it was to attack eastwards towards the area of *Hill 70* through the neighbouring Cité St-Édouard and Cité St-Laurent.



(Right above: *A water detail winds its way through the debris of Lens to supply the units occupying the forward area – from Le Miroir*)

(continued)

August 14, a day of heavy artillery activity by both sides, was spent in the Cité St-Pierre, and it was not until late that evening that the troops moved forward again into their assembly points. The attack by the 24th Battalion began at four-twenty-five in the morning of August 15 and the unit immediately began to incur heavy losses.

The 24th Battalion remained engaged in the fight for *Hill 70** and for Lens until the night of August 17-18. Having played its role in the still-ongoing struggle, the unit retired back to Cité St-Pierre where, for the next number of nights, it provided carrying-parties to supply ammunition to the front.

On the night of August 21-22... *after completing a tour of eight days during which time we went through the heaviest fighting yet experienced... the Bn. moved in small parties to BULLY GRENAVY where busses were waiting... (Battalion War Diary)*

(Right: A Canadian carrying-party – some of the work done by troops when in support and reserve – on the Lens front during the summer of 1917 – from Le Miroir)



The 24th Battalion now counted a mere thirteen officers and two-hundred sixty-five other ranks – normal battalion strength was approximately one thousand.

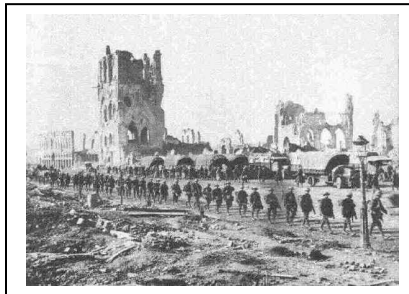
**Those expecting Hill 70 to be a precipitous and ominous elevation are to be surprised. It is hardly prominent in a countryside that is already flat, the highest points being the summits of slag heaps which date from the mining era of yesteryear. Yet it was high enough to be considered - by the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Corps, Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie - the key feature in the area, its capture more important than the city of Lens itself.*



(Right above: *This gentle slope rising to the left is, in fact, Hill 70. A monument to the 15th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry stands nearby in tribute. – photograph from 1914)*

The Canadian-led operations in the Lens-Béthune Sector were still incomplete towards the end of August when the British High Command decided to cancel any further actions there other than defensive ones. Things were not going altogether as planned in the summer campaign further north and the British were becoming short of men. The Canadians and the Anzacs were to be called upon to remedy that shortage.

The Lens-Béthune campaign thus having been drawn to a close, it was to be only some six weeks hence that the Canadians were ordered to join the ongoing battle in Belgium, to the north-east of Ypres. Officially designated as the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, taking that name from a small village on a ridge that was one of the British Army's objectives.



(continued)

(Previous page: *Troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration*)

From the time that the Canadians entered the fray, it was they who were to shoulder a great deal of the burden. For the week of October 26 until November 3 it was the 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions which spearheaded the assault, with the 1st and 2nd Divisions in reserve. From November 5 until the official end of the affair – November 10 - the reverse was true with the 2nd Division finally entering the remnants of Passchendaele itself.



(Right above: *Somewhere, perhaps anywhere, on the battlefield of Passchendaele during the autumn of 1917. – from Illustration*)

Meanwhile, after the affair at *Hill 70*, on August 22 awaiting busses had transported the 24th Battalion into reserve at Guoy-Servins where it remained until September 3, when the unit marched to Mingoal. From then until the 16th of the same month when it was eventually ordered towards the forward area, the unit's days comprised drills, lectures, parades, inspections, sports, training, musketry and those inevitable working-parties.

Then there was a ten-day tour at the front where no infantry action was reported but where the German artillery produced the usual trickle of casualties. On September 26-27 the Battalion moved to the rear again, to Villers-au-Bois where it was placed in reserve once more. The following four weeks – in and out of the line - proved to be similar to those early in the month.

On October 24 the 24th Battalion marched to the railway station at nearby Tinques, there to board trains which would take the unit northward to Caëstre, close to where, at Pradelles, it was to remain billeted for the remainder of the month. On the first two days of November, parties of NCOs and men travelled north to the outskirts of the Belgian community of Poperinghe to view something that their officers had already inspected just days before... *a plasticine model of the area the Division is detailed to attack. (Battalion War Diary)*

On November 3 the Battalion... *paraded at 5am and marched to CAESTRE where they entrained at 6.45 for YPRES, arriving there at 8.40 am, then marched by Platoons through City of YPRES to POTIJZE Camp... where BN. was distributed in the open occupying funk holes and tarpaulin shelters. The ground was very muddy and accommodation very poor. About noon enemy shelled our area... (Battalion War Diary)*



(Right above: *Canadian soldiers on the Passchendaele Front using a shell-hole to perform their ablutions – from Le Miroir*)

(Right: *The monument to the sacrifice of the Canadians which stands in the outskirts of the re-constructed village of Passchendaele (today Passendale) – photograph from 2010*)



(continued)

On the morrow the unit – all except ‘C’ Company which had been detailed as a working-party – moved forward in individual platoons and relieved the 19th Canadian Battalion in the line. On next day, the 5th, the Battalion remained in its positions where it was re-joined by ‘C’ Company, and there heavily shelled by the enemy.

At midnight the 26th Battalion, ordered to attack with the 24th, began to move into a position alongside. At six in the morning of November 6... *our attack was launched under a heavy barrage, the 26th BN. passing through us to their Objective. Throughout the day the enemy shelled us continuously... Throughout the night enemy artillery was concentrated on our Front and Support Trenches.* (24th Battalion War Diary)



(Right above: *A part of Tyne Cot cemetery, perhaps a kilometre from Passchendaele – the cross stands atop a German bunker. Apart from the twelve-thousand graves therein, of which more than eight-thousand are of unidentified soldiers, there are some thirty-five thousand names engraved in stone panels of those who died but have no known grave: there was insufficient space for them to be commemorated on the Menin Gate. – photograph from 2011(?)*)

The son of Levi Thomas Chafe, school teacher – by 1913 manager at *Murray & Crawford** (seal oil refinery) – and of Emma Maria Chafe (née *Gardner*) of 40, Victoria Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, he was also brother to Frederick G., to Victor-Leslie, to Anna-May and to Susie-Jane.

**In Levi Chafe’s own will of 1926 he is recorded as being an Accountant & Agent.*

Private Chafe was reported as having been *killed in action* during *Passchendaele* on November 6, 1917.

(Casualty Report) *On the morning of November 6th 1917, in company with another signaller, he was detailed to go forward and establish a visional (sic) station at Vienna Cottage. When they reached “C” Company trenched the enemy opened fire with 5.9 shells, and one landed in the trench, a piece of the shrapnel hitting Private Chafe in the head, causing instantaneous death.*

William Ambrose Chafe had enlisted at the age of twenty-four years and two months: date of birth in Brigus, Newfoundland, September 30, 1892. (His parents had married in Harbour Grace on August 15, 1889.)

Private William Ambrose Chafe was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).



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 26, 2023.