



Lance Corporal* Walter Carter Chard (Number 877222) of the 85th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*), Canadian Expeditionary Force, lies buried in Denain Communal Cemetery: Grave reference, A.9..

(Right: The 85th Battalion emblem, worn as a head-dress cap badge, is from the Wikipedia web-site)

His occupations prior to military service recorded as those of both mine-foreman and farmer, Walter Carter Chard likely immigrated with his family from the Dominion of Newfoundland to the Canadian province of Nova Scotia in the year 1902.

*Some papers record 'Private'; the home-page of Library and Archives Canada reads 'Cpl'; and his gravestone cites 'L. Cpl'. His files support the gravestone.



His place of residence at the time of enlistment cited as New Aberdeen on Cape Breton Island, Walter Carter Chard presented himself for military service at Glace Bay – of which town New Aberdeen was a district - on March 3 of 1916 and on the same day was *taken on strength* by the 185th Battalion (*Cape Breton Highlanders*).

**It was his first pay-list which recorded him as being taken on strength by the 185th Battalion on the very day of his enlistment, March 3, the day on which the Canadian Army began to remunerate him for his services.*

Six days later, on March 9, he then underwent medical examination in the industrial town of Sydney and was attested on that same March 9. These formalities were to become official some seven weeks later again, on April 29, when the Commanding Officer of the Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel F.P. Day 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.*

By this time, Private Chard would have already undergone several weeks of training in the town of Broughton*, only some twenty kilometres distant, to the south of Sydney.

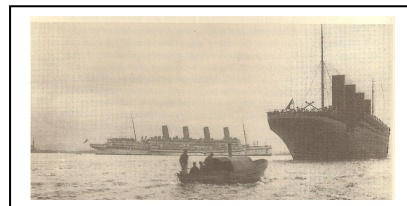
**Broughton had been a 'company town', developed towards the end on the nineteenth century by the Cape Breton Coal, Iron & Railway Company. Apparently too much money had been spent as the company went bankrupt in 1907 and the town was soon abandoned. At the outset of the Great War it was taken over by the Canadian Army and, more particularly, by the 185th Battalion (Cape Breton Highlanders).*

However, this posting to Broughton was not to last longer than just over two months: By that time, the authorities had decided to create a Nova Scotia Highland Brigade to comprise the 185th, the 85th, the 193rd and the 219th Battalions. On May 23 of 1915 these four formations were assembled to train together at Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia, where the Brigade then spent all summer before receiving its colours on September 28, two weeks before its departure for *overseas service*.

At Aldershot not only was Private Chard to train but he was also to receive promotion to the rank of provost corporal* (Military Police). He is then recorded as having been assigned to guard duty in Trenton on May 30 – also the date of his promotion - this to last for the next four months – likely to keep watch over the steel mills and associated shipyards there.

**As will be seen, it is not clear whether he still retained that rank at the time of his departure from Canada.*

At seven o'clock in the evening of October 11, 1916, the one-thousand thirty-eight officers and *other ranks* of the 185th Overseas Battalion embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic* in Halifax harbour. Earlier that day the 85th and the 188th Battalions had gone on board, to be followed on the morrow by the 219th and the 193rd.



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(Preceding page: *HMT Olympic on the right lies at anchor along with HMHS Aquitania, centre, at Mudros Bay in the autumn of 1915. – from a photograph from the Imperial War Museum, London*)

On October 13th - at about eleven o'clock in the morning - it was the turn of the half-battalion of the 166th – five-hundred three *all ranks* - the final unit, to march up the gangways before *Olympic* cast her lines and sailed towards the open sea. For the trans-Atlantic passage she was carrying some six-thousand five-hundred military personnel.

His *Active Service* papers document that Private(?) Chard was appointed to be an acting corporal on the day of the ship's departure, October 13. There is, however, no record of him having been demoted from that rank which he had apparently previously held since having been assigned duty in Trenton – and his pay records of that period offer no conclusive information except that he was receiving a corporal's pay from October onwards*.

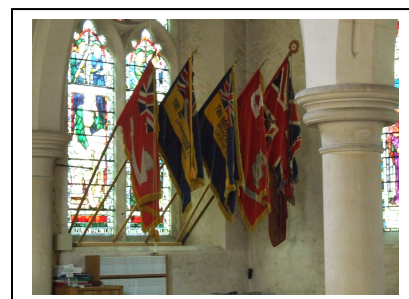
**Prior to that October only the dates of payment appear to be recorded, not the amount.*

The vessel docked in the English west-coast port of Liverpool on October 19, six days later, and the troops disembarked on that same day. The 185th was thereupon transported south-eastwards to Witley Camp in the county of Surrey.

Apart from being a time of training, the period spent at Witley was also the occasion to write one's will – if that had not already been done in Canada – before leaving for *active service* on the Continent. Corporal Chard did so on November 28, in a document leaving everything to his mother; and it was also at about this same time that he began to allocate a monthly fifteen dollars from his pay to his father.

It was not unknown at the time for NCOs and for officers who were passed over for – or even refused - service at the front, to request a demotion in order to become one of a reinforcement draft. Whether or not this was the reason in Corporal Chard's case is not recorded, but on March 11 of 1917 he reverted to the rank of a private at his own request. Nevertheless, even if that was his purpose, he was still to be obliged to wait almost a full year, until March 1, 1918, before being despatched to France.

The 185th Battalion is documented as providing reinforcements for Canadian forces on the Continent until February of 1918 when it was absorbed by the 17th (Reserve) Battalion. What Private Chard was doing between that date and his departure to France on March 1 is not recorded – perhaps there was a move to the Canadian camp at Bramshott as that is where the 17th (Reserve) Battalion was stationed.



(Right above: *Royal Canadian Legion flags amongst others adorn the interior of St. Mary's Church in the English village of Bramshott. – photograph from 2016*)

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On that March 1, 1918, Private Chard was transferred again, this time both on paper - to the 85th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*) - and by ship - to France. Once disembarked on the Continent he was transported on the same day to the 4th Canadian Infantry Base Depot at Étaples on the French coast. Apparently Private Chard was one of a draft of four-hundred-one to arrive there on what was reported as a snowy, rainy and cold day.

(Right: *Re-enforcements for an unidentified Canadian Scottish battalion, led by their pipers, on the march to the forward area in the north of France at some time during the winter of 1918 – from Le Miroir*)



Two days following – likewise rainy and cold apparently - on March 3, the Base Depot despatched fifteen officers and three-hundred forty-eight other ranks to various units.

Of that number, ninety-eight *other ranks* reported to duty on the morrow to the parent unit of the 85th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*) which at the time was in reserve at Raimbert, some fifteen kilometres to the west of the larger centre of Béthune.

* * * * *

The 85th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Highlanders*) had been organized in Canada in late 1915. The unit had taken passage to the United Kingdom in October of the following year – travelling on *Olympic* with Private Chard’s 185th Battalion among others – and had been despatched to France in February of 1917 to be a future element of the 4th Canadian Division which had disembarked in France only in August of 1916.

The unit, having been stationed at Witley, had passed through the English-Channel port of Folkestone on February 10 to embark on His majesty’s Transport *London* for passage to the Continent. The Battalion had disembarked at noon that day in Boulogne to march to the nearby St. Martin’s Rest Camp.

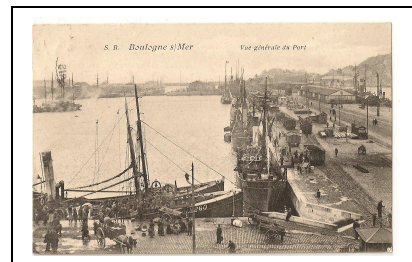


By February 14 it had travelled inland to report to Gouy-Servins where it had remained until the second day of March.

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

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

A goodly number of sources at this point in the 85th Battalion’s history appear to err, often by *omission* it must be said, rather than by *commission* - the author pleads guilty of the same mistake. While these sources record the Nova Scotia unit as being with the 12th Brigade of the 4th Division, this omits the fact – confirmed by the 11th Brigade War Diary – that it was as an element of *this* formation that the 85th Brigade served until after the action of April 9 on Vimy Ridge:



Excerpt from 11th Brigade... *Operational Order No. 51 issued at 11.15 a.m., 12.1V.17 – On relief the 85th Bn will pass to command of G.O.C. 12th Brigade...*

It appears that the 85th Battalion as an entity moved forward to the front line for the first time only on April 8. It apparently had been officially designated as a *working unit*, to be employed in reserve. However, due to its Commanding Officer's insistence, it had been undergoing exercises for several weeks before, training on prepared sites at Bouvigny Huts - and in meticulous fashion – and its officers briefed on the upcoming operation.

This insistence by Lieutenant-Colonel Borden, and these preparations, was to stand the Battalion in good stead for what was to follow.

What followed, of course, was to be the Canadian attack of April 9, 1917 on Vimy Ridge, an operation in which the 85th Battalion was to play a conspicuous role late in the afternoon.

However, prior to this as yet unforeseen duty, the tasks of the 85th Battalion on that day were as follows: *Construction and filling Dump at Strong Points 5 and 6; Construction of deep dug-out...; Digging C(ommunication) T(rench) from front Assembly Trench...; Party to carry wire and assist Brigade wiring party on construction...; Party to carry forward ammunition for Stokes Guns; Prisoners of War Escort Party; Battle Police...*

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

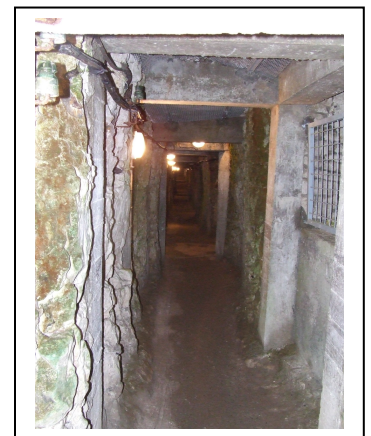
On that April 9 of 1917 the British Army launched an offensive not only at Vimy Ridge, but also in a large area to the north of *the Somme* battlefields of the previous year; this was the *Battle of Arras*, intended to support a French effort elsewhere. In terms of the count of casualties, some four thousand per day, it was to be the most expensive operation of the *Great War* for the British, one of the few positive episodes being that 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 to be a disaster.

(Right: *One of the few remaining galleries – Grange Tunnel - still open to the public at Vimy one hundred years later – photograph from 2008(?)*)

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



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The attack on Vimy Ridge had taken place on the opening day of the five-week-long *Battle of Arras*. The days and weeks that followed were to be less auspicious than had been April 9 and 10, and the realities of life in the trenches took hold once more. That early success was not to be repeated until the summer of 1918.

(Right: *Canadian troops of the 4th or 3rd Division, equipped – or burdened - 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*)



At three o'clock on the afternoon of April 9, the C.O. of the 85th battalion had been ordered to despatch two of his four Companies, one to each of the 87th and 102nd Battalions whose assault was being jeopardized by the enemy from positions on top of the crest. He was also ordered to be in position with the remainder of his command at half-past four in two of those well-known tunnels for further orders.

Those orders arrived thirty minutes early: *BATTER trench...is strongly held by fresh enemy... Will attack it with 2 companies of 85th...*

4.15 p.m. – G.O.C. (General Officer Commanding) *arranges assault on BATTER...by 85th Battalion...*

6.30 p.m. – *85th Battalion attacked without a barrage, and reached their objectives without much opposition. (Excerpts from 85th Battalion War Diary entry for April 9, 1917)*



(Right above: *German prisoners being escorted to the rear by Canadian troops during the attack on Vimy Ridge – from Illustration*)

Apparently the objectives in question were known collectively as *Hill 145* which, once taken, was consolidated into a strong-point by the 85th Battalion. Today the Canadian National Memorial at Vimy stands atop it.

On April 13 the 11th Brigade was relieved and the 85th Battalion moved back to the Bouvigny Huts where it had been quartered in March. From this time forward, until the end of the *Great War*, it was to serve as a component of the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade (see *Operational Order* further above).

The British High Command had by this time decided to undertake a summer offensive in the Ypres Salient, Belgium. Thus, in order to divert German attention – as well as his reserves - from this area, it had also ordered operations to take place at the sector of the front running north-south from Béthune to Lens.

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The Canadians were to be a major contributor to this effort, the best-documented action of which was to be the confrontation fought at *Hill 70* by troops of the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions.

(Right: *Canadian troops advancing under fire in the Lens Sector during the late summer of 1917 – from Illustration or Le Miroir*)

(Right: *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. This successful operation showed the progress that had been recently made, particularly in artillery tactics. – photograph from 1914*)

**The Canadians apparently had expected, and had indeed planned, further action in the area, but the ongoing Third Battle of Ypres was not proceeding according to expectations and the British were running out of reinforcements. The Canadians – and the Anzacs - were to be asked to provide the necessary man-power.*

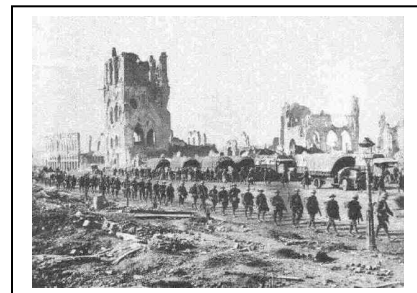
While not heavily involved in the Canadian-led summer of 1917 campaign in the mining area of the Lens-Béthune Sectors, the 85th Battalion was slated to play its part in that other ongoing offensive, the one in Belgium, further to the north – a battle that has come to symbolize the wretchedness of war. Officially designated 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 – ostensibly - one of the British Army's objectives.

(Right below: *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 shouldered a great deal of the burden. During 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.

The 85th Battalion had been in action during the final two days of October and had incurred more than fifty per cent casualties among both officers and *other ranks*: a total of six-hundred eighty-eight went into action; three-hundred ninety-four had become casualties. The unit was shattered.

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



During the winters of the *Great War* on the *Western Front* neither side undertook to launch an offensive. The armies held their ground, infantry activity was limited to patrols and to the occasional raid; casualties were mostly the result of artillery fire and snipers*. The 85th Battalion had been withdrawn south from Passchendaele in the first week of November, 1917, and was once more back in France, in the area of Lens, and enduring the routine of life in the trenches**.



**Not to forget illness and disease*

(Right above: *The Monument to the 85th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) which stands in a field by the side of the road from Zonnebeke to Passendale (Passchendaele) – photograph from 2014*)

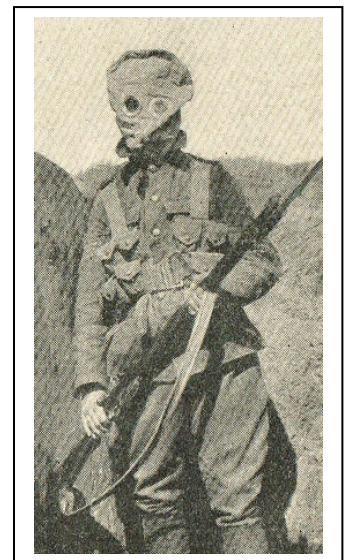
***During the Great War, British and Empire (later Commonwealth) battalions had their time more or less equally divided into three postings: in theory a week was to be spent in the front lines, at times little more than a few metres separating them from the enemy forward positions; a second week was 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 the less-visible British-made short Lee-Enfield Mark III rifles – from Illustration*)

By November 20, the 85th Battalion had withdrawn to the area of the commune of Raimbert, not far removed from the larger northern centre of Béthune. The time spent there behind the lines was to comprise the usual training, competitions, sports, lectures, church-parades, musketry, gas-drills, inspections, concerts, re-enforcements, working-parties... the list in the Battalion War Diary does go on... but the Diarist omits an important event.



(Right above: *A photograph, from 1917, of a Canadian soldier during training in the use of his 'gas-helmet': As may be imagined, it was difficult for the wearer to perform the duties of a soldier, particularly in the event of an attack. – from Le Miroir*)

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The month of December offered something a little different – and a reminder of home - to all the Canadian formations which were serving overseas at the time: the Canadian General Election. Polls for the Army were open from December 4 until 17, and participation, in at least some units, was in the ninety per cent range*.

**Apparently, at the same time, the troops were given the opportunity to subscribe to Canada's Victory War Loan. Thus the soldier fighting the war was also encouraged to pay for it as well.*

On February 19-20, after postings to several areas, the 85th Battalion was ordered back to Raimbert for a period of three weeks. The War Diary entry for March 4 reads partially as follows: Rainy and Cold. 98 O.R. reinforcements from 185th Bn... Private Chard had reported *to duty*.

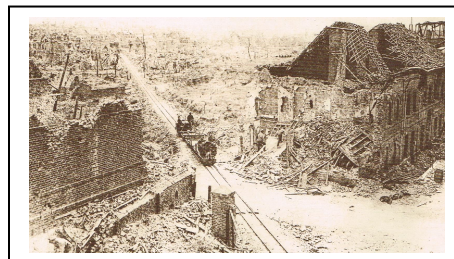
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As previously related, the winter of 1917-1918 had been a quiet period; March of 1918 – the month of Private Chard's arrival in France on *active service* - was to bring to a close this relative calm.



(Right: Souchez, in the forward area of the sector where Private Chard reported in March of 1918, already looked like this in 1915, three years earlier, before the French turned the area over to the British – from Le Miroir)

Perhaps not many people realize how close the Germans came to victory in the spring of 1918. Having transferred the divisions no longer necessary on the Eastern Front because of the Russian withdrawal from the War, the enemy then launched a massive attack, Operation 'Michael' on March 21.



(Right above: While the Germans did not attack Lens – in the sector where the 85th Battalion was serving - in March of 1918, they bombarded it heavily during the time of their offensive in order to keep the British uncertain about their intentions and to oblige them to retain troops in the area. – from Le Miroir)

The main blow fell at *the Somme* in the area of, and also just to the south of, the battlefields of 1916, and it fell for the most part on the British and Commonwealth troops serving there.

The impressive German advance continued for a month, but petered out just in front of the city of Amiens. The ultimate failure of the offensive was a result of a combination of factors: British and Commonwealth resistance, fatigue, logistical problems and French co-operation with the British were the most significant.

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**A second but lesser such offensive, 'Georgette', fell in northern France and in Belgium on April 9, in the area where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was serving with the British 29th Division. It also was successful for a while, but was finally held by the end of the month.*



(Right: British troops on the retreat in Flanders in April of 1918 – from Illustration)

But meanwhile, the German offensive having been contained*, the Allies – their High Command now unified under Foch – and the newly-arriving American divisions were contemplating an offensive of their own.

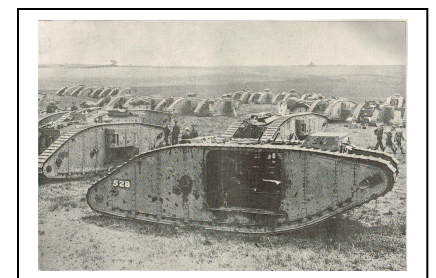
**And, while a great deal of ground had been ceded to the Germans, on neither front had anything of military importance been lost – none of the Channel ports, nor the railway junction at Amiens, and the British and French armies had not been severed, one from the other, either militarily or politically.*

On August 1 the 85th Battalion War Diary entry for the day reads as follows: *Fine. Word received regarding probable move by the whole Canadian Corps with a rumour of operations to follow. Nothing definite as to whether North or South. Preparations being made for a quick move, as it has to be done on the Battalions (sic) own wheels.*

That August 8, a week later, would be the opening day of the Allied offensive, the greater part on this occasion British- and Commonwealth-led, which was to result in the Armistice of November 11. On the Allied side this succession of battles became known as *the Hundred Days – Les Cent Jours*: what the Germans called it is less certain, although August 8 was to be, as far as Ludendorff was concerned, *the Black Day of the German Army (Der Schwartze Tag)*.

By that date the 85th Battalion had travelled south-west by train to disembark at Hangest-sur-Somme – about half-way between Abbéville and Amiens – and from there had marched some twenty-five kilometres westward to the smaller community of Vergies.

(Right: Tanks in ever-increasing numbers were to be used by the Allies in the last battles of the Great War. In 1917 the British formed the Tank Corps, a force which became ever stronger in 1918 as evidenced by this photograph of a tank park, once again 'somewhere in France'. Many of the troops to be involved in the fighting from this time onwards underwent training in the company of tanks. – from Illustration)



This transfer had taken place on August 3 and 4 by which time at least the Battalion War Diarist had known the reason for all this activity: *The scheme will be known as the L.C. (Llandoverly (sic) Castle) Operation, and will take place in a very few days, on a front of from 20 to 30 miles, East of Amiens, to a depth in places of eight miles.*

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The show will be staged by the 3rd British Corps, Australians, Canadian Corps, and the 3rd French Army, all under Field Marshal, Sir. Douglas Haig. The principal objective of the operation, to relieve the pressure on AMIENS.

(Right: The gothic cathedral in the city of Amiens which the leading German troops had been able to see on the western skyline in the spring of 1918 – photograph from 2007(?))

At nine o'clock on the evening of August 4, the Battalion had begun another long march, about twenty-eight kilometres eastward, to Briquemesnil, where it arrived at five in the morning of the 5th. Two days later again there had been a further... *hard march*...to the *Bois du Boves*, some nine kilometres to the south of Amiens, from where the attack of August 8 was to be launched on the next morning.

(Right below: On August 8, captured positions on the Somme being consolidated by Canadian troops against any German counter-attack – from *Le Miroir*)

Whereas the first part of the transfer had been accomplished mostly by train and by motor transport, the second part had been done by night marches, and around to the west and then the south of Amiens to keep the movement from the eyes of any German aviation observers. It worked: the Germans were totally taken by surprise.

Thus the assault was an overwhelming success, with territorial gains rarely seen since the opening weeks of the war in 1914. The 85th Battalion continued in its advance until August 18 when the unit was relieved and ordered withdrawn into Divisional Reserve – yet still, it would seem, within artillery range.

The War Diarist reports twenty-seven killed and one-hundred fifteen wound for the entire month of August – still too many, to be sure, but far from those appalling figures of *Passchendaele*.

(Right: In one of the many villages liberated from the Germans, Canadian and enemy wounded await evacuation to the rear. – from *Le Miroir*)

Private Chard's unit was not to return to the forward area until the first day of September when the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade was despatched to the front line. By that time, and in just as much secrecy, the Canadian Corps had been transported back whence it had come and was already back on the *Arras Front* ready to deliver a further attack.

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A first offensive in this area had already been achieved by the Canadians and British during the final days of August. On September 2, other units passed to the offensive, attacking the trenches of the Drocourt-Quéant Line, advancing along the axis of the Arras-Cambrai road as far as, and then capturing, Dury village. On the following day, the push continued virtually unopposed for a further six-and-a-half kilometres, some units advancing as far as the *Canal du Nord*.

On September 5 the unit and Private Chard retired, although to where *exactly* appears not to be documented. On the 8th the Battalion retired even further, to the area of Wailly south-west of Arras, to a hutted camp which, for the obvious reason, was known as Wailly Huts.

Private Chard was not, however, to enjoy the comfort that the huts promised – although it apparently took a day or two to render them habitable. He had been chosen – or ordered – to return to the Canadian Corps Re-enforcement Camp to undergo an NCOs’ course and while he was there, on September 27, he received promotion in the field to the rank of acting lance corporal. He returned *to duty* with his unit on October 7 at Agnez-les-Duisans.

(Right: *Douglas Haig, C.-in-C. of British and Commonwealth forces on the Western Front inspects Canadian troops after their successful operation of September 2 against the German Drocourt-Quéant Line – from Le Miroir*)



It had been only at four-thirty of that same morning that the personnel of the 85th Battalion had arrived by bus and taken over billets in the village... *the men billeted in huts and the officers for the most part in the Chateau*. The day was spent in resting up and getting the camp in order; then it was the litany of inspections, parades, drills, lectures, sports, oft-times concerts, and the inevitable working-parties.



(Right above: *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*)

After eight days at Agnez-les-Duisans, on October 15 the Battalion once more was ordered to the forward area, on this occasion taking an over-crowded train to the community of Marquion on the main Arras-Cambrai Road – and just beyond the *Canal du Nord*, the passage of which by that time had been forced on September 27 – from there to march to Sauchy-Cauchy where billets – and two days of more training - awaited.



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(Preceding page: German prisoners carrying wounded after the crossing of the Canal du Nord by the Canadians – the incomplete section pictured here in the area of the colour photograph of the previous page – from *Le Miroir*)

The Canadians were still slowly advancing along their front, at times against minimal resistance, at times strongly opposed - by the German machine-gunners in particular. The Canadian battalions often alternated passing through one another as they progressed and the 85th Battalion was a part of this process.



(Right: *The Canal du Nord almost a century later, at a point where it intersects the main Arras-Cambrai Road. The construction of the Canal was in fact still not completed at the time and parts of it were dry. – photograph from 2015*)

(Right: *A group of German prisoners, some serving here as stretcher-bearers, being taken to the rear after their capture by Canadian troops: a tank may be seen in the background – from *Le Miroir)**



Moving around the northern flank of Cambrai, by October 19 it was at Aubencheul-en-Bac, on the afternoon of the same day at Marcq, on the next day at Mastaing before spending the night of October 20-21 in nearby Roeux.

On the 21st Lance Corporal Chard's unit was ordered to advance to Wavrechain and on the 22nd moved into the larger centre of Denain. On the 23rd it was ordered east for mopping-up operations as far as the Escaut Canal after which it remained for the night and the following day on the west bank.

On October 25 the 85th Battalion was ordered... *to endeavour to establish a bridge head on the East side of the canal tonight. Operation proved unsuccessful, owing to the fact that the bridge was blown up just as the attacking party was about to cross. The day was marked by heavy shelling in the forward area and enemy machine guns also very active**. (Battalion War Diary)

**The pertinent appendices in the Battalion War Diary shed no further light on Lance little light on Corporal Chard's precise role on that day.*

(Right: *A German machine-gunner dead at his post – from *Illustration)**



The son of James Chard, deceased during or after 1917 but before April of 1919, and of Fannie Chard* (née *White*) of Little Bay, Newfoundland, he was also brother to at least Gilbert (and possibly John).

**Fannie was James Chard's second wife; the first had been Selina Jane Chard (née Toms) whom he had married on November 12, 1877. She was buried on December 5 of 1878. He married Fannie on November 15, 1883.*

The following was registered in the 85th Battalion War Diary at the end of the month of October: *KILLED IN ACTION – 877222 L/Cpl. Chard, W.C. 25-10-18...* and the following recorded on a Casualty Report: *“Was instantly killed by shrapnel during an attack”*.

Walter Carter Chard had enlisted at the age of twenty-one years and seven months: date of birth at Little Bay, Newfoundland, October 9, 1884.

Lance Corporal Walter Carter Chard 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.