



The Extraordinary Life Of

Robert J Bliss

May 1893 – November 1966

Compiled by Steve Monk 2019 - 2021



Robert J Bliss had an extraordinary life, from birth, fostering, emigration to Canada, World War One, to the Kent County asylum to his death in 1966 and subsequent burial in Rolvenden Church yard.

The Extraordinary Life of Robert J Bliss

Robert J Bliss was born in Dover Road Folkestone on 1st May 1893 to parents Robert James & Eliza Bliss (nee Poile born in Rolvenden 1865)

His Mother Eliza Poile was born in Rolvenden in 1865 and living in Alma cottages in the 1871 census & was a domestic servant in Merrington house Rolvenden in the 1881 census. Then moved to Folkestone but returned to Rolvenden as she appears to have lived with my Gran (Doris May) & Grandad Brown for a while.

His Father Robert James Bliss was born in Folkestone in 1862 and fought in the Sudan & Egypt Victorian wars in the late 1800's and later went on to own a shoe & boot shop in Folkestone. (Bliss & Carter).

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 10a	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, Urban District, or Sanitary District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Sanctuary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet	
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of HOUSE		HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person		RELATION to Head of Family		Age last Birthday or		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION		WHERE BORN	
No. of		No. of		Sex		Males		Females		Employer, Worker, or Own account		If Working at Home	
42		1		Joseph J. Huntley		Head		52		Baker		Kent, Gresham	
43		1		Elizabeth de		Wife		40		Charang		do Kingsdown	
44		1		Robert J. Bliss		Head		39		Baker		Kent, Gresham	
45		1		Lillian de		Wife		35		Baker		do Kingsdown	
46		1		Henry de		Son		8		Baker		do Kingsdown	
47		1		Infant de		Son		4		Baker		do Kingsdown	
48		1		Frederick Burwell		Head		57		Baker		Kent, Gresham	
49		1		Sarah de		Wife		36		Baker		do Kingsdown	
50		1		Dorothy de		Boarder		26		Baker		do Kingsdown	
51		1		John de		Son		19		Baker		do Kingsdown	
52		1		William Austin		Head		37		Baker		Kent, Gresham	
53		1		Margaret de		Wife		32		Baker		do Kingsdown	
54		1		Harriet de		Son		5		Baker		do Kingsdown	
55		1		Herbert de		Son		3		Baker		do Kingsdown	
56		1		Margaret de		Wife		1		Baker		do Kingsdown	
57		1		Holliday de		Wife		8		Baker		do Kingsdown	
58		1		Daniel Austin		Head		35		Baker		Kent, Gresham	
59		1		Jane de		Wife		31		Baker		do Kingsdown	
60		1		William de		Son		21		Baker		do Kingsdown	
61		1		Amy de		Wife		15		Baker		do Kingsdown	
62		1		Stephen de		Son		12		Baker		do Kingsdown	
63		1		Emma de		Wife		10		Baker		do Kingsdown	
Total of Schedule of Houses and of Tenants with less than Five Rooms		5		Total of Males and of Females		14		11					

NOTE—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

On 31st March 1901 (Census above) he was living at 15 Darlington Street Folkestone. Aged 8

Infant Bliss on the above 1901 census was Frederick, Doris May was not born until 1906.

I have just discovered (Dec 2020) that they had another son, Clarence Charles Bliss who was born around November 1894, Christened, and died in September 1895.

By 1906 Robert James and Eliza Bliss had three sons, Robert J, Henry, and Frederick and Two daughters Lilian and Doris May.

They were unable to keep all the children, this could have been because Robert James Bliss was in the county asylum and died there in October 1909. Ironic as this is where Robert J Bliss ended up after the First World War. The three sons were placed with Dr Barnardo's or Fegan Homes, Robert J was placed with Fegan Homes.

Robert went into Fegan Homes on 2nd March 1909 at the age of 15 and was initially placed in the Boys home in Southwark and emigrated to Canada with a party of boys from Fegan's on the SS Empress of Ireland which left Liverpool on 9th April 1910.

N.B.—Care must be taken to fill in date and name of boy.

No. *2561.*

Falkstone Feb. 22nd 1909

Application for Admission

OF

Robert James Bliss aged 15 years.

INTO

"Mr. FEGAN'S HOMES"

(INCORPORATED).

BRANCHES:

THE BOYS' HOME, SOUTHWARK, S.E.

THE RAMSGATE ORPHANAGE, RAMSGATE.

ORPHANAGE AND TRAINING HOME, STONY STRATFORD.

THE DISTRIBUTING HOME, TORONTO, ONTARIO.

Where was he born?	<i>Dover Road. Falkstone</i>
When was he born?	<i>1st May. 1893</i>
Is his father living?	<i>Yes. but Susan, in County Asylum</i>
Is his mother living?	<i>Yes, at 5 Clifton Mews</i>
Has he any step-parents?	<i>No</i>
What was his father's occupation?	<i>Boot maker</i>
What was his mother's occupation?	<i>Housewife</i>
Has he any brothers or sisters? If so, give their names, ages, addresses, and occupations	<i>Lillian Bliss, aged 17, 5 Clifton Mews</i> <i>Henry Bliss " 11, Barnardos Homes</i> <i>Frederick Bliss " 4 " do</i> <i>Doris Bliss " 2 5 Clifton Mews</i>
Give the names and addresses of his nearest relations or friends, if any	<i>Mrs Bliss (mother) 5 Clifton Mews, Falkstone</i> <i>Miss Alice Poole, and 15 Marine Parade</i> <i>Falkstone</i>
On what ground is admission sought? Is it because he is an orphan, destitute, incorrigible, or what? Answer this question fully	<i>Chiefly on preventive grounds, the father is in the Asylum, and the mother is unreliable and without control in the management of the boy</i>

"Mr. Fegan's Homes"

(Incorporated).

Branches:

THE BOYS' HOME, SOUTHWARK, S.E.

THE BOYS' ORPHAN HOME, RAMSGATE.

ORPHANAGE AND TRAINING HOME, STONY STRATFORD.

THE DISTRIBUTING HOME, TORONTO, ONTARIO.

FORM OF CONSENT.

(This paper must be signed in the presence of a Magistrate or Clergyman.)

(1) *I* the undersigned hereby give (2) *my* consent for the emigration of (3) *Robert James Bliss* to Canada or the United States, under the direction of the Governor and officers of the above Institutions, and promise not to interfere with his training in the Homes, or any arrangements which may be made from this date in his behalf.

(1)	NAME.	RELATIONSHIP.
	<i>Edyia Bliss</i>	<i>Mother</i>
3	<i>Clifton Garage</i>	
	<i>Folkestone</i>	

N.B.—(1) Put *I* or *We*.

(2) Put *my* or *our*.

(3) Write the boy's name in full.

(4) Signature or mark of person or persons consenting.

Certificate of Magistrate or Clergyman.

I beg to certify that I have witnessed the signing of this paper.

R. A. Wood J.P.
Folkestone
Kens

Date *22nd* day of *February* 190*9*.

Form of consent for emigration to Canada signed by his Mother & a J.P.

Certificate.

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we have enquired into the truth of the foregoing statements, are satisfied that they are correct, and that the answers may so far be depended upon as to justify action in the case.

Name G. P. Welland
 Profession Hair Dresser
 Address 11 Pendragon St. Folkestone

Name Frank Gilbert
 Profession Writer
 Address 11 The Parade Folkestone

Name and address of party making application: John Murray L.R.C.P.S.
15 Trinity Gardens
Folkestone

This paper must be returned to The Governor of The Boys' Home, 92, Southwark Street, London, S.E., correctly filled up, and the Certificate above must be signed by two responsible persons, one of whom must be a Minister, City Missionary, Guardian of the Poor, or other person interested in relief-work.

Witnesses confirming the details are correct



On 9th April 1910 Robert J Bliss was a passenger on The Empress of Ireland on route to a new life in Canada aged just 15. He arrived in Saint John in Brunswick Canada on or around 14th April 1910.

Mr Fegan's Home Southwark London.

On July 31st, 1882, following the expiry of the lease on the boys' home in Deptford run by James Fegan, the establishment transferred to new premises at 95 Southwark Street, Southwark. Located on a broad thoroughfare running parallel to the Thames from London Bridge to Blackfriars Bridge on the Surrey side, Fegan later described the home as 'the most centrally situated of all Rescue Homes in the great city.'

The six-floor building could accommodate 150 boys who did not need seeking out, as had previously often been the case, but came of their own accord or were brought by the police.

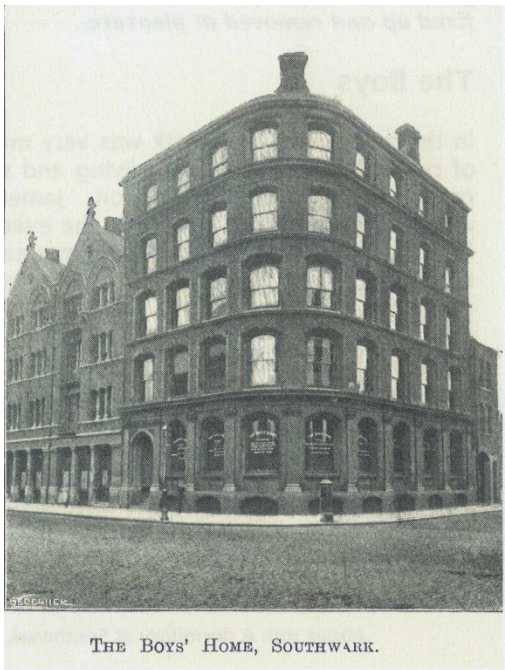
Boys at the home were taught various trades to enable them to earn their own livelihood. At one time, demand became so great that temporary premises had to be taken in an adjoining street for the shoemaking workshops.

A printing department was also established in connection with the home. Some of the boys were also emigrated to Canada where Fegan had a Distributing Home in Toronto.

By 1912, the location of the home was no longer felt to be suitable and a site for new premises was found at 62-64 Horseferry Road, Westminster.

The new, purpose-designed building was opened the following year and the Southwark Street home was then closed.

The Southwark Street building is now used as office accommodation.



95 Southwark Street in 1910



95 Southwark Street in modern times.

Name of Ship Empress of Ireland Date of Departure 8/4 19 10 Where bound St John. Port of Departure, LIVERPOOL.
CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS.

Port of Embarkation.	No. of Ticket.	NAMES OF PASSENGERS. (Passengers holding Contract Tickets or Storage Passengers should be entered first, and a space left between them and the other Passengers.)	Class. (Whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd.)	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers.	ENGLISH.			WELSH.			SCOTCH.			IRISH.			BRITISH COLONIAL.			Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.
					Adults of 12 yrs. and upwards.	Single Children between 1 and 12.	Infants.	Adults of 12 yrs. and upwards.	Single Children between 1 and 12.	Infants.	Adults of 12 yrs. and upwards.	Single Children between 1 and 12.	Infants.	Adults of 12 yrs. and upwards.	Single Children between 1 and 12.	Infants.	Adults of 12 yrs. and upwards.	Single Children between 1 and 12.	Infants.	
LIVERPOOL.					Male.	Female.	Male.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Male.	Female.	Male.	
	140696	E Howard	1	3 Iron	28															St John
		M Gates	1		24															
	128469	W Barrie	1	Joiner	38															
		J. Shelton	1	Chieft	2															
	139780	D Guller	1	Joiner	28															
	131596	D Dongvan	1	Barber	38															
		Berson	1	Butcher	20															
	131583	Mr Newton	1	Lab	28															
		Ruggles	1		27															
	131597	C Mills	1	Joiner	16															
		a Cannon	1	Butcher	16															
		a Beekhall	1	Clerk	16															
	140214	a Clary	1	Joiner	16															
		a Roberts	1	Butcher	16															
		a Embam	1	Smith	16															
		Wm Brandford	1	Agent	16															
		a Barford	1	Butcher	16															
		a Weckerson	1	Clerk	16															
		a Holding	1	Smith	16															
		S Menley	1	Butcher	15															
	140215	R Swannabough	1	Agent	15															
		a Underwood	1	Clerk	15															
		a Beaumont	1		17															
		a Davis	1		16															
		a Walker	1		18															
		R Thompson	1	Lab																
	140216	a Barne	1	Sailor	18															
		a Graham	1	Farmer	16															
		a Braden	1	Clerk	17															
		a Lucin	1	Smith	15															
		a Mathews	1	Shopman	16															
		a Smith	1	Ass	18															
		a Bliss	1	Lab	16															
	140217	a Palmer	1	Boy	15															
		a Kellip	1		14															
		a Jenkins	1		14															
		a Barratt	1		14															
		a Kirtley	1		15															
		a Mitchell	1		15															
		a Cuff	1		11															
		a Ryke	1		14															
		a Comb	1		15															
	140218	a Palen	1		12															
		a Carter	1		11															
		a Hewe	1		11															
		a Chaplin	1		11															
					465															
					133															
					41															
					8															
					1															
					3															
					BT27/654/1/1/12															

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Passenger list for the Empress of Ireland sailing from Liverpool to St John in Brunswick Canada 9th April 1910 showing R Bliss as a passenger.



The 1910 Emigration party of Boys, this photo taken just before leaving for Canada. Unfortunately, we don't know which one is Robert J Bliss. I think it is the lad second row from the front sixth in from the left.

On 14th April 1910 Robert J Bliss was living at a Fegan Home at 295 George Street Toronto Canada.

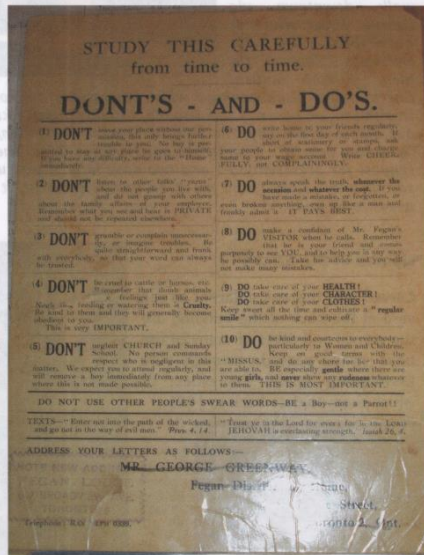


As of 2018 this building is still there albeit derelict and in a rundown area due for redevelopment.

Sale of 295 George Street & Purchase of Broadview Avenue

By 1936, with the future of the migration in doubt, and with the cost of maintenance of the building becoming prohibitive, Fegans Council of Management took the decision to sell the building. A sale was completed in March 1938. In the meantime, in September 1937, a new smaller Home situated in Broadview Avenue and known as Fegans Lodge had been purchased as a base for the Canadian side of the work.

The last party of boys to emigrate to Canada with Fegans was in 1939 and, with the need for a base in Canada diminishing, the Home at Broadview was sold in 1947.



Right: A list of Do's & Dont's given to the boys as they embarked on their placements in Canada.

Christian care in a changing world

Fegans was founded in 1870 • Registered Charity No. 209930 • Registered Company No. 61874

Fegans

160 St James' Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent, TN1 2HE
Tel: 01892 538288
E-mail: info@fegans.org.uk
www.fegans.org.uk

Counselling Children, Supporting Parents

Fegans Distributing Home George Street, Toronto

SOME FACTS

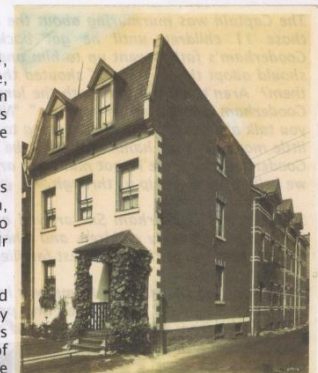
Overview

In the Spring of 1884, encouraged by Lord Blantyre, James Fegan took an experimental party of 10 boys to explore whether there were openings for boys in Canada.

It was on this trip that James Fegan met William Gooderham, a Toronto businessman, who took a great interest in Mr Fegan's plans.

Impressed with what he found and, with the costs covered by a generous supporter, James Fegan took a further party of 50 boys in the Summer of the same year. They were put up by Mr Gooderham in Toronto before setting off for placements in the North West.

The Home at 295 George Street Toronto was gifted to Fegans in 1886, and it was used to accommodate a party of 100 boys who went out that year. By the time it was sold in 1938, some 3,000 boys would have passed through it on their way to placements on farms in Canada.



The Distributing Home, George Street, Toronto

Mr William Gooderham

The background to Mr William Gooderham's arrival in Canada is recorded in the book, 'JWC Fegan—A Tribute' by Rev W Y Fullerton as follows:

...Mr Wm Gooderham, whose father, discharged from the army at Norwich, about 1826, with a sum of prize money, decided that the best thing he could do would be to transport his family of nine children to Canada. On the voyage a man and his wife, with a family of 11 children, both died.

The Captain was murmuring about the responsibility of looking after those 11 children until he got back to an English port. Mr Gooderham's father went up to him and offered that he and his wife should adopt them. "What?" shouted the astonished Captain. "Adopt them? Aren't you the man with the large family?" "Yes," said old Mr Gooderham quietly, "we've got nine." "Nine?" roared the Captain, "and you talk about adopting eleven, going to a strange country with only a little money in your hand! You must be mad!" "No, Captain," said Mr Gooderham Snr., "we're not mad. We are doing it in God's name, and we believe He will help us through."

So Mr & Mrs Gooderham Snr arrived at Little York (now the City of Toronto) with twenty children, and when this brave old pioneer died, he left them two of the wealthiest families in the Dominion.

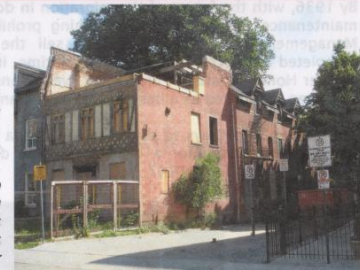
The gift of the Distributing Home was intended as a thank-offering to God for the way He had blessed and prospered his family since they had arrived from the Old Country, and as an acknowledgement of the grace that had come into his own life.



Pictured Right: Christmas 1910 in the dining room at George Street.

George Street today

The building (pictured right in July 2013) was 'rediscovered' in October 2011 by Eleanor McGrath, an independent documentary filmmaker. She says: I decided to walk downtown via George Street which is notorious for its Homeless Shelter for men, Ryerson Student Ghetto and a neighbourhood which was at one time one of Toronto's wealthiest...and there I saw around a building that I knew was one of our oldest in the city, the tell-tale sign of demolition/redevelopment "hoarding boards". I contacted our Heritage Department and put the request for preservation - and two days later it was up in smoke! To say that this story found me is an understatement, it is a story that needs to be told...



Names in the Bricks

Carved into the wall adjacent to the yard at the back of the building are the names and dates of many of the boys who passed through the Distributing Home, the oldest of which seem to date back to 1895.

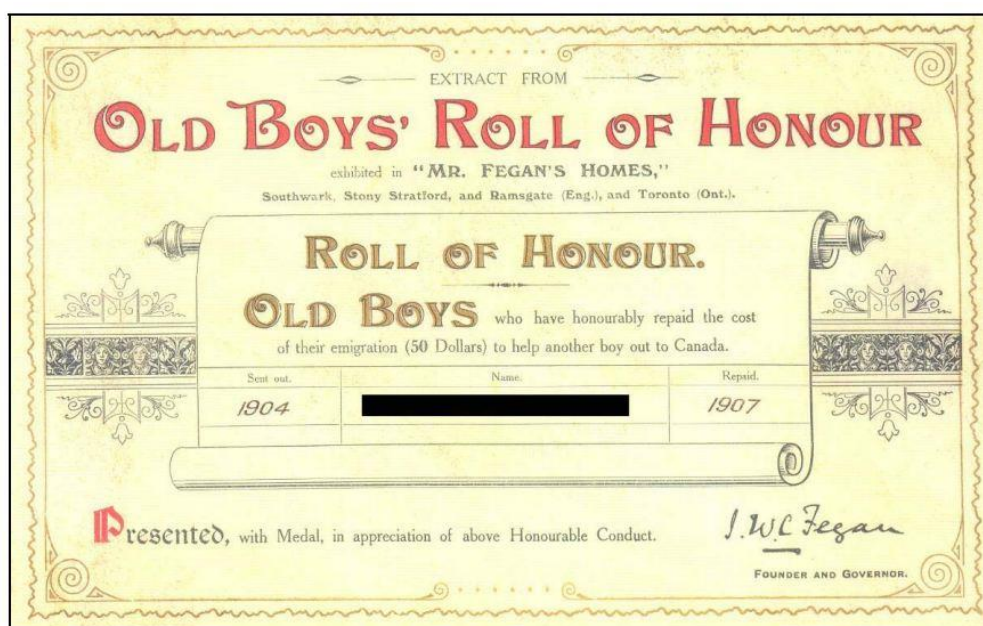


FEGAN'S ROLL OF HONOUR MEDAL

Fegan Homes encouraged the children to pay back the cost of the fare, and the clothes etc supplied to them when they left England, from their wages in Canada. This money was then sent back to England to cover the cost of sending more children. Apparently, a plaque was kept in the receiving home in Toronto showing the names of children who had paid back their fare etc and this was called a Roll of Honour.



Images of the Bronze Medal given to the Boys that paid back their fare, their name would have been engraved on the reverse side. Not found Roberts yet.



List of 943 Old Boys

who have voluntarily repaid the £10 laid out on their Emigration, so as "to help to give some other poor fellows a chance in life," with the year of their emigration, and the year in which they have gained their place on the

Roll of Honour.

1910	Ernest Palmer	1911
1910	Robert Bliss	1911
1908	Reginald Barton	1911

Robert Bliss's name on the Roll of Honour.

On 22nd March 1911 Robert J Bliss was placed with a Canadian family Mr & Mrs Hill on their farm for one year for which he was paid 72 Canadian dollars which in today's money is about £43 for the year.

Date *Oct 12th* 1911

Came out.	Present Age.
<i>1910</i>	<i>18$\frac{1}{2}$</i>

Name *R. C. Bliss.*

Address *Y. Mr J. W. Hill*
St Thomas. P.O. Ontario.

Date of Engagement *March 22* 1911 . Terms *72⁰⁰ for 1 year*

Report :

*Robert is getting along nicely
Mr Hill says he is a good worker
He has grown a fine healthy young
man and seems to like farming
He say his mother is wanting him
back in England again which has
an unsettling effect on the lad
I think this a pity as he is doing so
well. With first class people.
Home splendid. R.H.*

Above is a report dated 12th October 1911 on how Robert J Bliss was getting on in his foster home and his general wellbeing. There is then a gap in the evidence until he signed up in 1914 for the Canadian Army.

1911 Canadian Census showing Robert J Bliss

[illegible]

Robert was listed as living as a domestic with Frank & Carrie Hill in Southwold, Elgin West, Ontario Canada.



The Township of Southwold borders Lake Erie. Not sure where the farm was in Southwold though.

There is then a gap in his history until he signed up for the Canadian Army at the beginning of WW1

2nd November 1914 He signed up for 18th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

53650

Folio. 5

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name?..... Robert Bliss
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... Colchester Eng
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... (Mother) Eliza Bliss
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... Colchester Eng
5. What is the date of your birth?..... 1 May 1897
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... Editor
7. Are you married?..... single
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?..... Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... No
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... Yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?..... Yes

Robert Bliss (Signature of Man).
W. J. Green (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, R Bliss, 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.

Robert Bliss (Signature of Recruit)

Date Nov 2 1914. W. J. Green (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, R Bliss, 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.

Robert Bliss (Signature of Recruit)

Date Nov 2 1914. W. J. Green (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 St Thomas this 2d day of Nov 1914.

Edmund (Signature of Justice)

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

8 SE

200 M-8-14.
H.Q. 1775-1-14.

W. J. Green (Approving Officer)
Edmund

Army Medical

Description of Robt Bliss on Enlistment:

Apparent Age 22 years 0 months
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height 5 ft 9 in

Weight 140 lbs

Birth when fully expanded 37 ins

Range of expansion 3 ins

Complexion Brown

Eyes Blue

Hair Brown

Religious denomination
 Church of England
 Presbyterian
 Wesleyan
 Baptist or Congregationalist
 Other Protestants ☒
(Romanism to be stated)
 Roman Catholic
 Jewish

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 indicate the same in the following manner, which is only to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.

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-Sens Expeditionary Force.

Date Nov 2 1914.

Place St Louis

Medical Officer.

Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

Notes.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been examined, and will briefly state his reasons for rejection of a recruit.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Robert Bliss 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.

Date Nov. 28th 1914.

W. J. H. H. H. (Signature of Officer)

1915 Canadian Expeditionary Force - 18th Battalion Nominal Roll

53176 Private	Anderson, Robert Horace	Territorials	Anderson, Fred	Great Kinghill, High Wycombe, Bucks, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53177 Private	Andrew, Alex. U.	Russian Army	Payliff, Mrs. Maria	Chesham, Bucks, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53178 Private	Andriell, Thos. Christopher M.	NIL	Payliff, Thos. C.	14 Brant Ave., Dublin, Ire.	Ireland	Windsor	Nov. 2
53179 Private	Appleton, James	NIL	Appleton, Mrs. Ada	81 New Summer St., Birmingham, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53180 Private	Archer, John	7th Regt.	Archer, Frederick	Byron Sanlaram, Byron, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53181 Private	Arnold, Mark	NIL	Arnold, M. J.	121 York St., Guelph, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53182 Private	Arnold, Mark	NIL	Arnold, M. J.	Goderich, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53183 Private	Arr, Robert	NIL	Arr, James	31 Cape St., Newport, Mon., Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53184 Private	Arrow, Smith Joseph	NIL	Arrow, Smith S.	84 Grandy St., Detroit, Mich., U.S.A.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53185 Private	Ashley, William	NIL	Ashley, Mrs. Sarah	12 Grandy St., Guelph, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53186 Private	Austin, Alfred George	NIL	Austin, Mrs. Annie	Warwick, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53187 Private	Austin, Alfred	20th Regt.	Austin, William	Strathroy, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53188 Private	Auterson, William Harold	Imp. Forces	Auterson, Gordon	37 Paganet Ave., Berlin, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53189 Private	Aylward, George	25th Regt.	Aylward, Mrs. A.	Steele St., St. Thomas, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53190 Private	Baldwin, Charles	25th Regt.	Baldwin, Frank	W. Main St., Guelph, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53191 Private	Baker, Charles	25th Regt.	Baker, William	Croydon, Surrey, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53192 Private	Baldwin, Charles	30th Regt.	Beale, Mrs. W.	28 Broughton Place, Edinburgh, Scot.	Scotland	Windsor	Nov. 2
53193 Private	Bell, Harold	C. F. A.	Bell, Mrs. Richard	Sheffield, Ont.	Canada	Windsor	Nov. 2
53194 Private	Barnes, Edgar John	Imp. Forces	Barnett, George W.	48th Avenue, Hinfeld, Lancs, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53195 Private	Barrett, Fred	NIL	Barrett, Mrs. C.	333 Burnley Rd., Colne, Lancs, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53196 Private	Barrett, William J.	NIL	Barrett, James	Sampson St., Pat Station, Cornwall, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53197 Private	Bartholomew, Constant	25th Regt.	Bartholomew, Mrs.	80 Kings Rd., Cardiff, Wales	Wales	Windsor	Nov. 2
53198 Private	Bayliss, Benjamin	25th Regt.	Bayliss, Benjamin	1000 Maudslayi, London, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53199 Private	Beale, Henry	Imp. Forces	Beale, Mrs. Elizabeth	Bradleys St., Berlin, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53200 Private	Beall, Alwyn	NIL	Beall, Mrs. Alice	Salford, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53201 Private	Beall, George Arthur	NIL	Beall, William	New Plaidon, Titchmarsh, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53202 Private	Beall, George	Territorials	Beall, George	1000 Maudslayi, London, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53203 Private	Bennet, George	NIL	Bennet, Mrs. Alice	235 Fifth Park Rd., Sheffield, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53204 Private	Bennett, William	NIL	Bennett, A. D. B.	1173 Laura St., London, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53205 Private	Bennett, Arthur	Territorials	Bennett, George	St. Vigenus Scot.	Scotland	Windsor	Nov. 2
53206 Private	Bentley, Edward	NIL	Bentley, Mrs. Emily	70 New Church Street, Dundee, Scot.	Scotland	Windsor	Nov. 2
53207 Private	Bentley, William	NIL	Bentley, Frederick	1070 Main St., London, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53208 Private	Berry, Fred	27th Regt.	Berry, James	Ingessell, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53209 Private	Berry, Fred	27th Regt.	Berry, James	British Army, Camp of War Office, London, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53210 Private	Berry, Fred	27th Regt.	Berry, James	24 Albert St., London, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53211 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	24 Inverness St., Salford, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53212 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Care of Mrs. Sunda, Park Fields, Less, Salop, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53213 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Copenhagen, Denmark	Denmark	Windsor	Nov. 2
53214 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	88 Chapel St., Salford, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53215 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Galt House, Galt, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53216 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Ridgeway, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53217 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Kirkcaldy, Scot.	Scotland	Windsor	Nov. 2
53218 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wingham, Ont.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53219 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53220 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53221 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53222 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53223 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53224 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53225 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53226 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53227 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53228 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53229 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53230 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53231 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53232 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53233 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53234 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53235 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53236 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53237 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53238 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53239 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53240 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53241 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53242 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53243 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53244 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53245 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53246 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53247 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53248 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53249 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53250 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53251 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53252 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53253 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53254 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53255 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53256 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53257 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53258 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53259 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53260 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53261 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53262 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53263 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53264 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53265 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53266 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53267 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53268 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53269 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53270 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53271 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53272 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53273 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53274 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53275 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53276 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53277 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53278 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53279 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53280 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53281 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53282 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53283 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53284 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53285 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53286 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53287 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53288 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53289 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53290 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53291 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53292 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53293 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53294 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53295 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53296 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53297 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53298 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53299 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2
53300 Private	Bickley, William	NIL	Bickley, William	Wickhampton, Kent, Eng.	England	Windsor	Nov. 2

On 18th April 1915 Robert sailed to England on the SS Grampian with the Canadian Expeditionary Force.



On 29th April 1915 he arrived in England and travelled to West Sandling Army Camp. Here is an account of the journey from Canada to West Sandling.

The Battalion left Canadian shores late on 18 April and sailed into a storm. It was two days before many of the men became accustomed to the pitching motion of the ship.

The ship travelled with its lights blacked out to avoid detection by enemy submarines. After two days, the weather improved, and the trip was more like a pleasure-cruise.

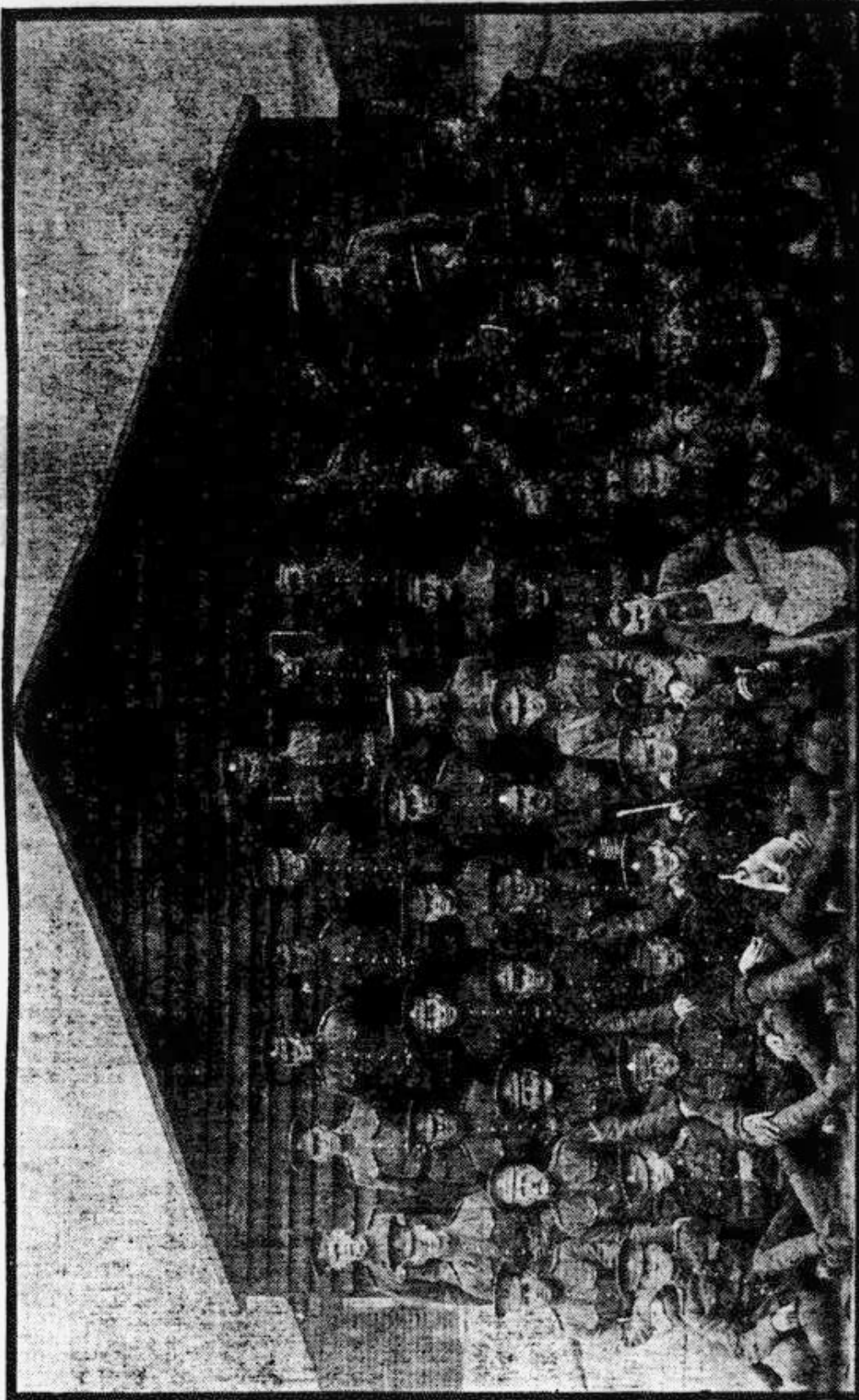
The Grampian docked at Avonmouth, near the city of Bristol on the morning of 29 April. The men were off the ship and onto the cars of a Great Western Railway train in less than three hours. They had just disembarked from the train at Folkestone and were forming up to march to camp when a hospital train full of wounded Canadians passed through the station on the way to London. These casualties dampened the spirits of the men a little. They marched the last two kilometres to West Sandling Camp near Folkestone, Kent on the English Channel and were served dinner by 7:00 PM.

Original			WAR DIARY		Army Form C.	
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. This page will be prepared in manuscript.			Apr 29-1915 to May 31-1915	or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY	18th Bu. C.E.F. 4th Inf Bde C.E.F.	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.			Remarks and references to Appendices
AVONMOUTH.	29-4 1915	6.00 A.M.	Arrived on R.M.S. GRAMPIAN.			
W. Sandling Camp:	"	3.00 P.M.	Arrived at WEST SANDLING CAMP. and Allotted Quarters.			
"	4-5-15		32 other Ranks detailed to attend course in Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting at NAFER BARRACKS, SHORNCLIFFE.			
"	7-5-15		CAPTS. HALLAM, PERRY, SHUTTLEWORTH, and LOCHRIN, and 17 other Ranks to report to O.C. 17th. Batt. for Course as above. LIEUT. W. J. FORBES-MITCHELL, LIEUT. RISPIN, and 6 other Ranks detailed for Course in M. G. ROSS BARRACKS, SHORNCLIFFE.			
"	8-5-15		2 more other Ranks added to above Course.			
"			MAJORS L.E. JONES, A.C. PRINCE, R. BEMERTON, C.E. SALE,; LIEUTS. C.P. LAING, J.S. BELL, W.S. McKEOUGH, J.A. McINTOSH and 16 other Ranks detailed for Course in Musketry, to report to O.C. 30th. Batt. DIBGATE.			
"	10-5-15		Transport Detachments 19th. and 20th. Batts. (LIEUT HATCH and 33 other Ranks) attached for Duty and discipline.			
"	26-5-15		Detail of 8-5-15 Returned from Course at DIBGATE.			
"	27-5-15		19th and 20th. Detachments ceased to be attached. MAJOR J.T.F. MURPHY, CAPT. MCKETCHNIE, and CAPT. ROSS, A.M.C. attached to Officers Mess 16th. Batt.			Training Syllabus Appendix 'A' Training Syllabus Appendix B.

1577 Wt. 107941/1773 500,000 1/15 D. H. & L. A.D.S.S./Form C. 2118

only 18th Bu. C.E.F.

NO. 11 PLATOON, C COMPANY, 18TH BATTALION, AT SANDLING CAMP



From left to right—First row—L. Morenz, M. Reid, F. Pipe, R. S. Silcox, J. McKinnon, R. Smith, A. Turner, W. Mundie, H. Gauge, H. Cartwright, J. Brownlee, Second row—H. Hunable, R. Strong, L. C. Barnes, Lance-Corp. Munro, Corp. Tripp, Serget-Major Spearing, Lieut. McCrimmon, Serget. Crosbie, Serget. Smith, A. Flett, B. Flock, J. McCausland, B. Clark, Third row—A. Tolton, R. Bliss, W. Colwell, J. Senior, A. Anderson, J. Rutherford, T. Lindores, J. A. Spearpoint, F. Hiscox, C. Allen, J. Young, Top row—J. Norwood, R. Cairns, W. Fease, W. Mitchell, F. Newlands, J. McCraney, R. Harness, E. Goodier, H. Marshall, T. Magee, J. Woodcock.

Robert J Bliss was placed in "C" Company 18th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)

Robert J Bliss is in the third row back second in from the left.



Photograph of some Canadians at West Sandling Barracks Robert J Bliss is the one at the back in the center of the doorway.



Robert J Bliss playing cards at the West Sandling Barracks, Robert is the one holding the cards.

Whilst training at West Sandling camp Folkestone he was docked a day's pay on three separate occasions 7th June 21st June and the 1st August 1915 he was recorded as AWL (Absent without Leave) possibly visiting his mother nearby.

Training at West Sandling continued until 14th September 1915. On 15th September 1915 he disembarked in Boulogne, Pays de la Loire in France with CEF to the WW1 Western front.

It appears there was a bit of an incident as they approached Boulogne when they were Rammed by British destroyer and had to be towed to Boulogne where they arrived at 5 pm. Nine men jumped on the destroyer at the time of collision and re-joined the Battalion four days later.

Robert J Bliss early war notes

26th September 1915 – Dranoutre in reserve trench C & B companies in first line

3rd October 1915 – Remained R E Farm in Trenches

5th October 1915 – C Company relieved by A Company in Trenches

8th October 1915 – left for Veerstraat and relived Col Saleys? Brigade in the trenches.

14th October - Marched to Ridge Wood in reserve until 20th October

21st October – Le Brasserie

11th March 1916 – Dead Dog Farm in reserve (Battalion HQ) (Slipstraat)?

17th March 1916 – Ridge Wood

28th March – Divisional Reserve at LA Clytte (Battalion HQ)

4th April Battalion HQ moved from La Clytte to Camp A

The initial bombardment of German lines at St Elio starts around this time

9th April He is wounded and returns to his Battalion on May 9th

Most of May was as above, rotating between trenches, I Camp, Brigade Reserve, D Camp, Scottish Wood, Voormezele and surrounding areas. Their days when not in the trenches were taken up with Bathing, training.

1st June Battalion in Brigade Reserve Bedford House, C Company at Bluff Tunnel

5th June C Company in trench 31 The Bluff

6th to 10th June Quite a bit of action in the Bluff, heavy bombardment and quite a few injuries & deaths.

11th to 16th June Dickebusch in Brigade Reserve

17th to 23rd June Front line trenches the Bluff

24th to 28th June Bedford House in Reserve

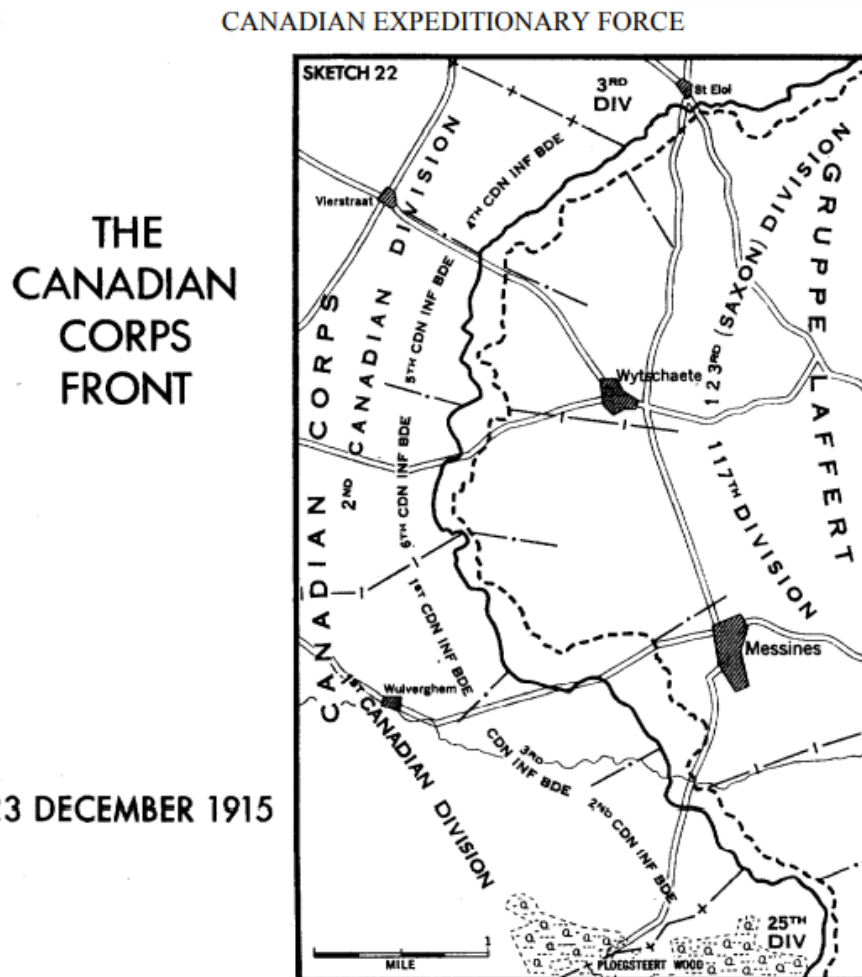
29th June to 3rd July Front line trenches

3rd July Trenches probably 31 bean in the Bluff where he was wounded for the second time, this ended his active war service. Eventually he was sent back to England.

Winter in the Line - Canadian Expeditionary Force

The year drew uneventfully to its close. For all the emphasis on aggressiveness and training, the troops devoted much of their energies to trench maintenance and to making themselves as comfortable as possible. They had much to contend with. "The Flanders rain was like no other rain that had ever fallen on earth", comments one regimental historian.

There was no escape from it. The trenches, which were nothing more than sandbagged breastworks, simply dissolved. The earth within the sandbags liquefied and oozed out. Everything collapsed. Every indentation of the ground Filled with water, and, to make things worse, the enemy, being on higher ground, delighted in draining his trenches across No Man's Land into those occupied by the Canadians.



The misery of Salisbury Plain was being repeated, and the troops had no means of shielding themselves against the cold and the wet. Although men stood for days in thigh deep water, there were not enough high rubber waders to go round.

Trench shelters caved in, leaving no protection from the teeming skies. Conditions were little better back in billets, where roofs leaked and it was all but impossible to coax more than a noxious smelling smoke out of the damp coke and charcoal that came up with the rations.

In the trenches the daily rum ration of half a gill (1/64 of a gallon) helped to ward off the ill effects of wet clothing and exposure to cold. Its distribution was regulated by Trench Orders, which directed that the rum should always be kept under the personal charge of the company commander and issued only in the presence of an officer. Men undergoing punishment for drunkenness would receive no rum for 14 days after the offence, except for medical reasons.

It was inevitable that there should be much influenza and other respiratory ailments. In spite of preventive efforts by the medical authorities, by regimental officers and by the troops themselves, the number of such cases in the Corps rose from 796 in October to 1198 in November. To reduce the wastage incurred in evacuating men back to a general hospital, minor cases of sickness requiring not more than seven days' treatment were retained at the Corps or one of the Divisional Rest Stations. Each of these had a capacity of about 250 beds and was operated in turn by the field ambulances during periods of inactivity in the front line. During active operations, the rest station closed and the unit would resume its function as a field ambulance.

One environmental ailment which was particularly distressing and hard to cure was "trench feet", resulting from "continued cold wetness ... with added secondary infection from the soil". This condition, like frostbite (from which it differed only in degree), was characterized by a swelling of the feet and a deterioration of the tissues which soon changed to gangrene if not checked.

Preventive measures were the wearing of either rubber boots or well-greased leather boots-in either case, keeping puttees loose, rubbing feet and legs with whale oil, and frequently changing socks. Failure to prevent trench feet was considered a breach of discipline for which a whole unit might be punished by curtailment of leave; nevertheless 157 cases were admitted during the period 2-5 December 1915 by one hospital alone and before the end of the war nearly 5000 cases had been reported.

Christmas Day passed quietly. The more fortunate units were those in reserve who could eat their Christmas dinner in billets. There was little activity in the forward trenches. The German artillery was silent and in at least one instance the infantry of both sides walked about in the open behind their forward trenches, without a shot being exchanged. But there was none of the large-scale fraternization that had characterized the unofficial "Christmas Truce" between British and German troops in 1914. The memory of the gas attack at Ypres still rankled, and front-line battalions were instructed that any attempt by the enemy "to bring about a temporary cessation of hostilities" must be met by rifle, and if necessary, artillery fire.

December 1915 **WAR DIARY**
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. *18th Can Bn*

Army Form C. 2118.

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.
(Erased heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendix
	<i>Dec 25</i>		<i>Bath as yesterday - everything very quiet tonight and all day. Very little firing but no bullets were taken by either side.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
	<i>26</i>		<i>B. & D. Corps relieved 'H' & 'C' Corps in trenches. Wishes for Xmas and the New Year were received from H.M. the King, H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and Major Gen Sir SAM HUGHES - 16 Newlands, 16th Can Bn, killed in action - 3 O.R. admitted to hospital.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
	<i>27</i>		<i>Bath as yesterday - 16th Bn killed in action - 3 O.R. sent to hospital.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
	<i>28</i>	<i>5 pm</i>	<i>Relieved by 19th Bn - 18th Bn went to divisional reserve at LA CLAYTE. Lieut McKenagh attached to 3rd Div. for instructions.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
	<i>29</i>		<i>LA CLAYTE - 1st inspection in morning & inspection of line in afternoon. Officers went to WESTOUTRE to study plan of attack.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
	<i>30</i>		<i>LA CLAYTE - 1st inspection in morning & 1st attack on WESTOUTRE for practised attack.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
	<i>31</i>		<i>retained at 5 pm.</i>	<i>Ref</i>
	<i>29 (Contd)</i>		<i>LA CLAYTE shelled in which the last 2 men killed.</i>	<i>Ref</i>

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Christmas 1915 War Diary Entry.

Around the 8th or 9th April 1916, he was injured – Gunshot or shrapnel wound to right arm at Crater 3 Voormezeele, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

18th Canadian Battalion
WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	6 th		Position as yesterday. 5.30 a.m. Batt ⁿ moved to. 7.30 a.m. Batt ⁿ moved up through VOORMEELE in silence at CONVENT LANE. Front line held by 31 st Can B ⁿ . Enemy artillery very active all day. This shelling was heavy on the reserves and supports. CAPT. McKEOUGH, CAPT. AMBERY and LIEUT. J. BAXTER returned from leave.	
	7 th	6.30 a.m.	Have B coys withdrawn to Camp A. C.D. remained in reserve. Situation quiet. Leave cancelled. 6.0.13 wounded, 1.0.1 returned from Hospital. Post Orders show. - 2.0.1 died of wounds and 9.0.13 invalided to ENGLAND and struck off strength.	
	8 th		18 th Batt ⁿ now in support at VOORMEELE. Orders received from 11 th Can. Inf. Brigade for Brigade to attack craters No 2 and 3. 18 th Batt ⁿ in conjunction with 19 th Can B ⁿ to attack crater No 3. 2.0.1 killed in action. 10.0.12 wounded. 1.0.1 returned from Hospital.	copy of operation order attached.
	9 th		For position see - <u>Laudatory.</u> The Army Commander wishes to say how pleased he is with the work done last night which has materially improved our position. He wishes General Kenney and the troops concerned informed. Every effort must now be concentrated on establishing communication from our front line to the craters and in organized bombing attacks. Further comment by 6.0.14 th The Commanding Officer wishes to add that he is greatly pleased with the result of last night's work and that the excellent work of all officers	report of operations attached.

2355 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Form/C. 2118.

18th Canadian Battalion
WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

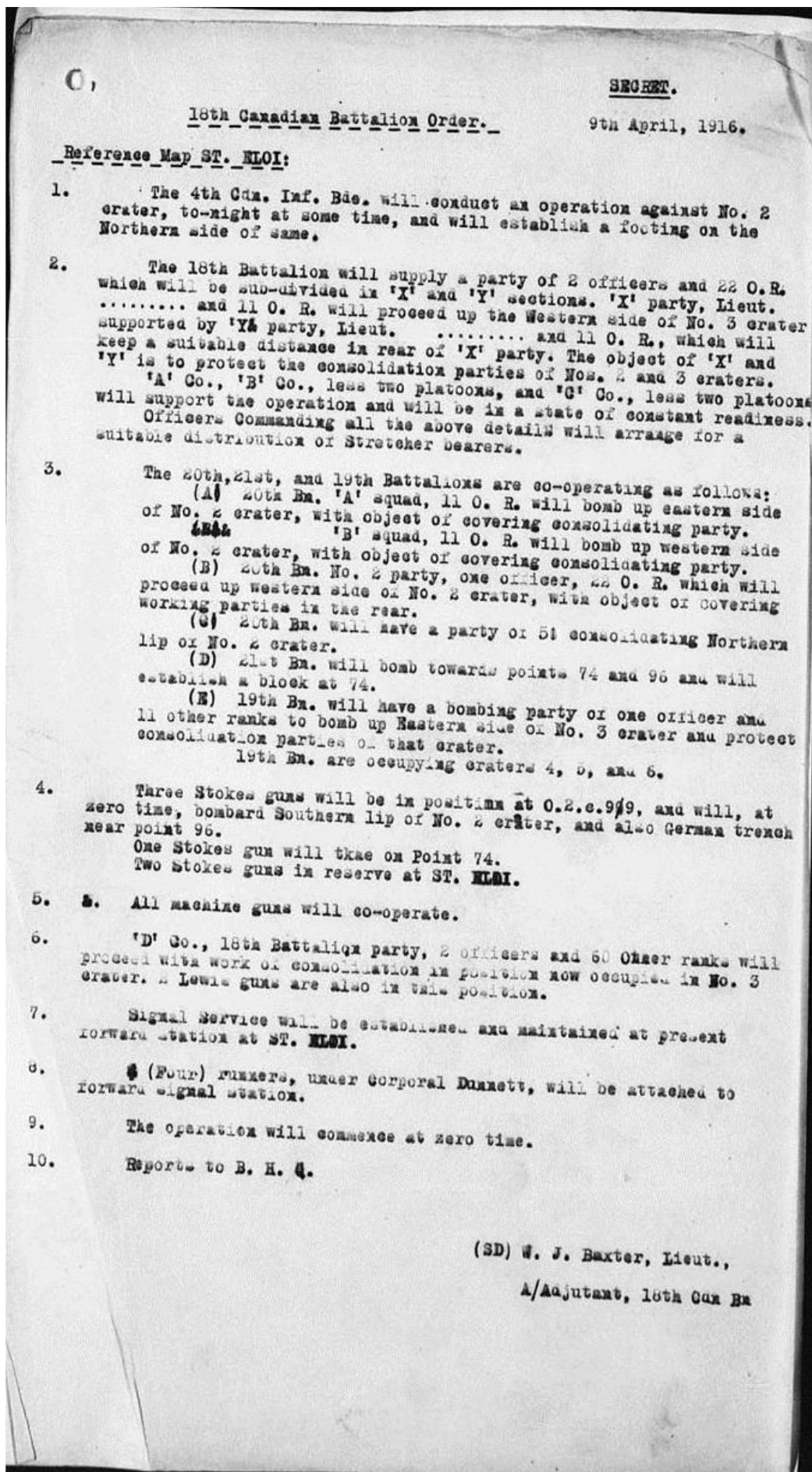
Army Form C. 2118.

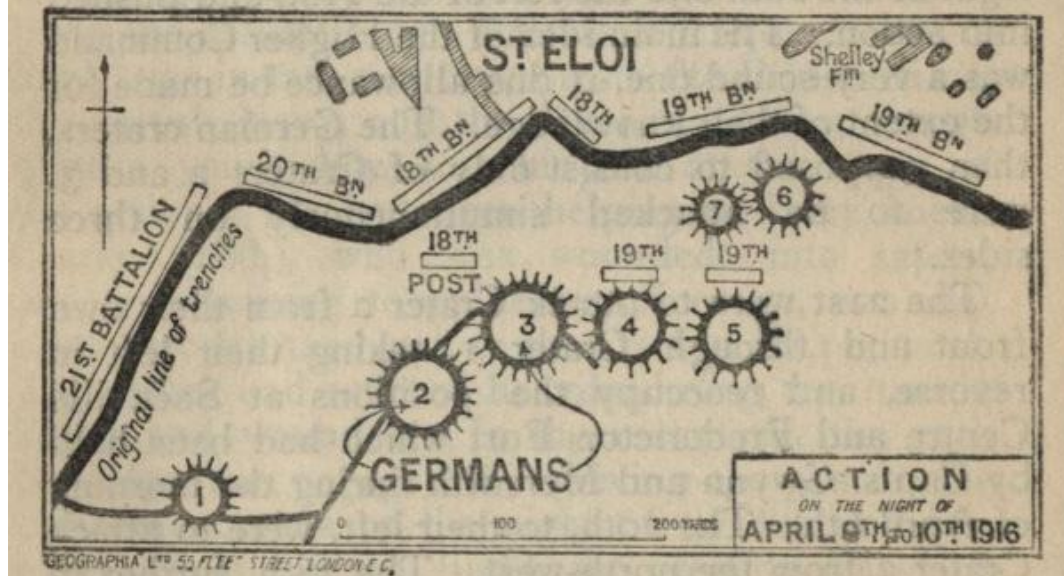
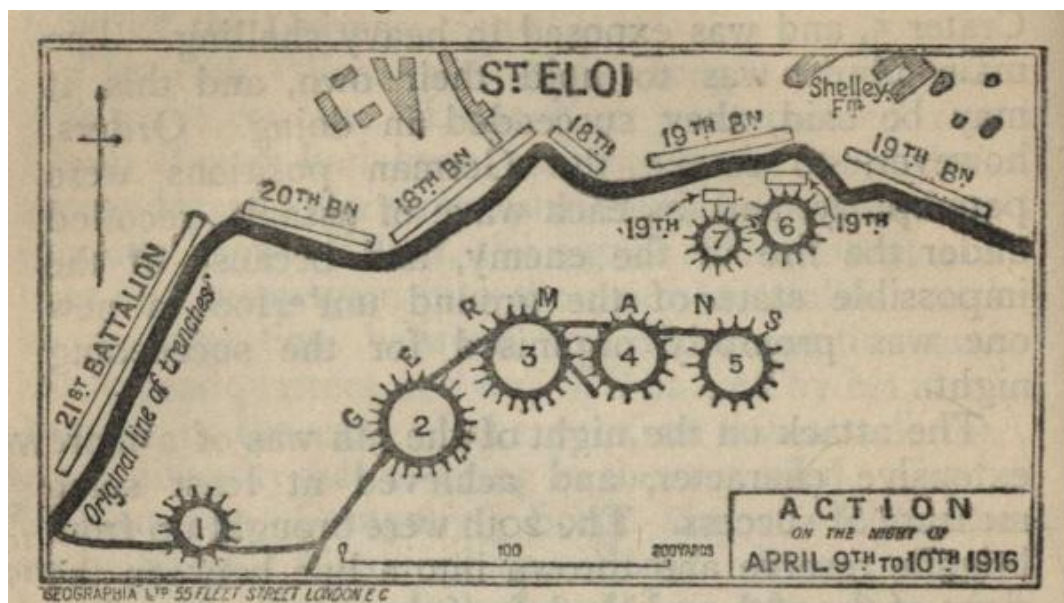
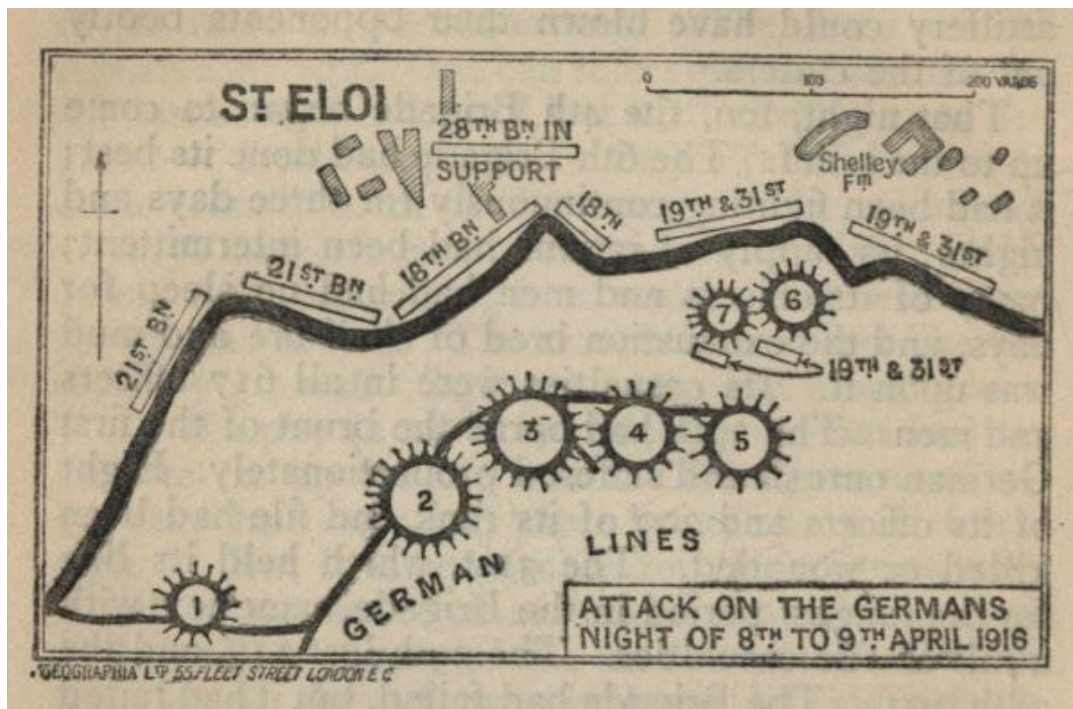
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	9 th	6.00 a.m.	credit not only to ourselves but to the whole of the 2 nd Canadian Division (approx). Operation orders received from 11 th Can. Inf. Bde. for further operations tonight. LIEUT. J. BEEBON struck off strength from 27.5.16. 1.0.1 killed in action. 2.0.1 wounded.	copy of operation order attached.
	10 th		Relief and working parties as per Brigade orders attached. 20.0.1 arrived as reinforcements. Position -	see order attached.
	11 th		Battalion relieved and moved to Camp 5. LIEUT. J. NORTHCOMBE, J. KANS. C.H. KERR admitted to Hospital. LIEUT. P. LAWSON reported. Died of wounds at 6.6.5.11.0. 9.0.1 killed in action. 1.0.1 missing.	
	12 th		Batt ⁿ in Camp I. Routine. LIEUT. J.A. CLARKE and 13.0.12 wounded. 3.0.1 killed in action. 1.0.1 admitted to Hospital (wound). 1.0.1 returned from Hospital.	
	13 th		Batt ⁿ in I Camp. 20.0.12 Casualties reported admitted to Hospital. Routine.	
	14 th		no. Routine and bath parade. CAPT. T.C. LAMB returned from leave. LIEUT. W.J. BAXTER admitted to hospital (wound). LIEUT. V.N. SMAULPIECE. 1.0.1. Died of wounds. 3.0.1 killed in action. 10.0.1 strength decrease.	
	15 th	7.00 a.m.	Batt ⁿ in I CAMP. Fatigue party 300 men to front line. 5.0.12 admitted to hospital. 1.0.1 returned from Hospital.	

2355 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Form/C. 2118.

War Diary entries for 6th to 15th April showing the events at St Eloi Crater No: 3





The drawings on previous page show the progression of the Canadian attack of St Eloi craters starting at the top with the Germans holding the craters on the night of the 8th & 9th of April 1916 with the Canadian 21st, 20th 18th & 19th Battalions holding their lines through St Eloi village.

During 9th & 10th April 1916 the Canadians pushed forward to try and take the craters with the 18th battalion attempting to take No: 3 crater. A more concise account can be found on pages 13-14 in the war diary and official order instruction.

It was a long drawn and bloody battle, just one account from Canadian Private Donald Fraser, a 34-year-old bank clerk from Calgary, described the scene: "When day broke, the sights that met our gaze were so horrible and ghastly that they beggar description. Heads, arms and legs were protruding from the mud at every yard and who knows how many bodies the earth swallowed. Thirty corpses were at least showing in the crater and beneath its clayey waters other victims must be lying killed and drowned. A young, tall, slim English lieutenant lay stretched in death with a pleasant, peaceful look on his boyish face. Some mother's son, gone to glory."

There are many more gruesome accounts of this battle which ended in a lot of dead and wounded and a stalemate situation where no one gained any ground.



St Eloi No: 3 Crater in 2019

10th April 1916 his Army record states he was admitted to the No: 6 Canadian Field Ambulance (See Appendix 1) and transferred to Casualty Clearing Station No: 10 and from there Transferred by No: 23 Train to No: 8 Stationary Hospital where he was admitted for Gunshot Wound to Right Arm.



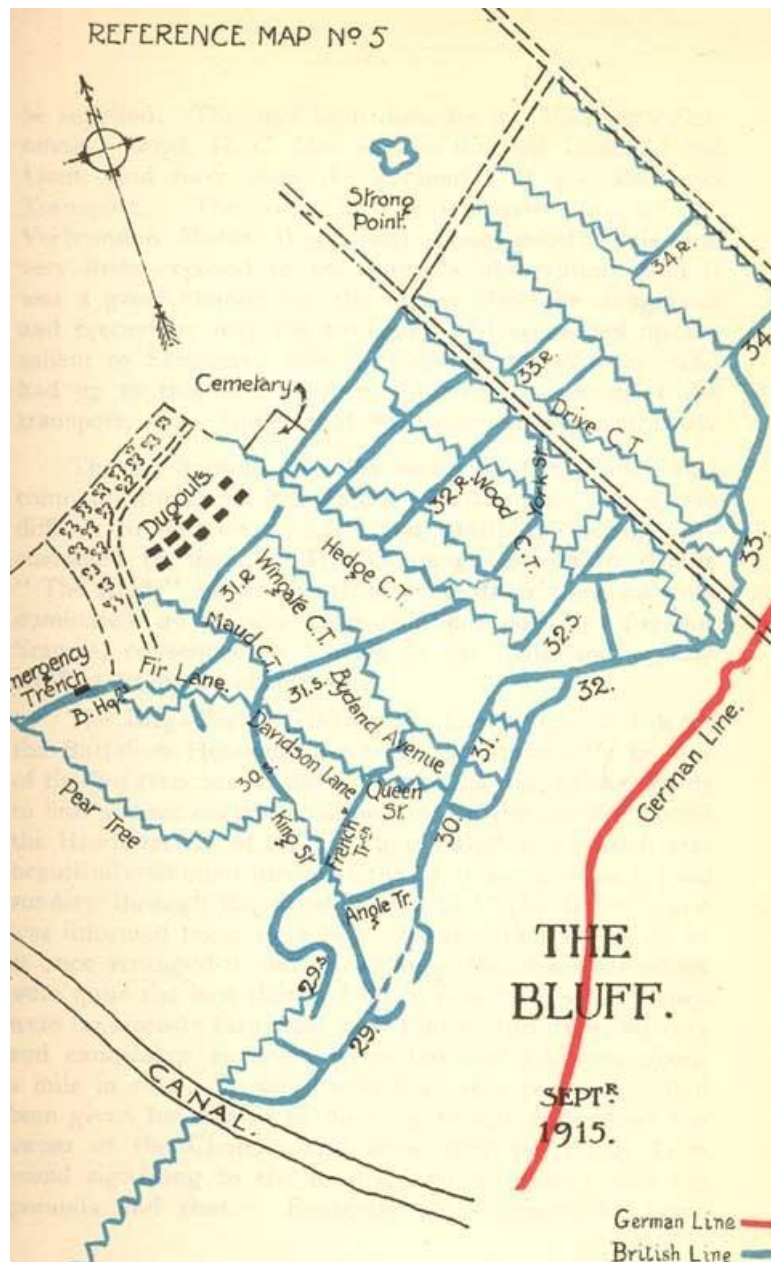
No: 10 Casualty Clearing Station near Poperinge.



10th April 1916, he was admitted into No: 8 Stationary Hospital Wimeraux Nord-Pas-de-Calais France
For a gunshot wound to his right arm.

He was transferred to No 5 Convalescence depot on 15th April and then Discharged to base details (Non soldiering work) in Boulogne passed as class A on 2nd May then proceeded to re-join his unit on 7th May.

His military record shows he Re-joined his unit in the field on 9th May 1916.



Map showing the Bluff area including the International Bean & Pollock trench 31 area where Robert J Bliss received his second injury to his back whilst in the Front line in the Battle of Mount Sorrel, Battle of Hill 62.



Trench 31 would have been in the field beside the woods in the middle of the pictures.

No: 25 General Hospital (Below)



On the 3rd July 1916 Admitted to No: 5 Canadian Field Ambulance (See Appendix 1) with Gunshot wounds, Shell Contusions to spine, Stomach troubles and Pyrexia (High Temperature). He was transferred to No: 25 General Hospital Hardehot-Plage, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France (Above).

5th July he was discharged to Canadian Base Depot.

18th August 1916 Classified as Class C wounded & transferred to Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre (CCAC) in Folkestone. A centre where wounded were assessed for either further treatment or return to duty.

21st August 1916 he started 8 weeks training in the Folkestone Canadian Convalescent Depot (CCD) - facility where soldiers could recover from wounds and rebuild their strength.

31st January 1917 struck off strength (SOS) - when a soldier ceases to be a member of a unit because of transfer, injury, or death.

Transferred to 4th reserves West Sandling. 14th February 1917 with the 4th reserves Hastings Sussex.

11th March 1917 with the 4th reserves Bramshott Hampshire.



25th November 1918 on leave to Buxton Canadian Discharge Depot



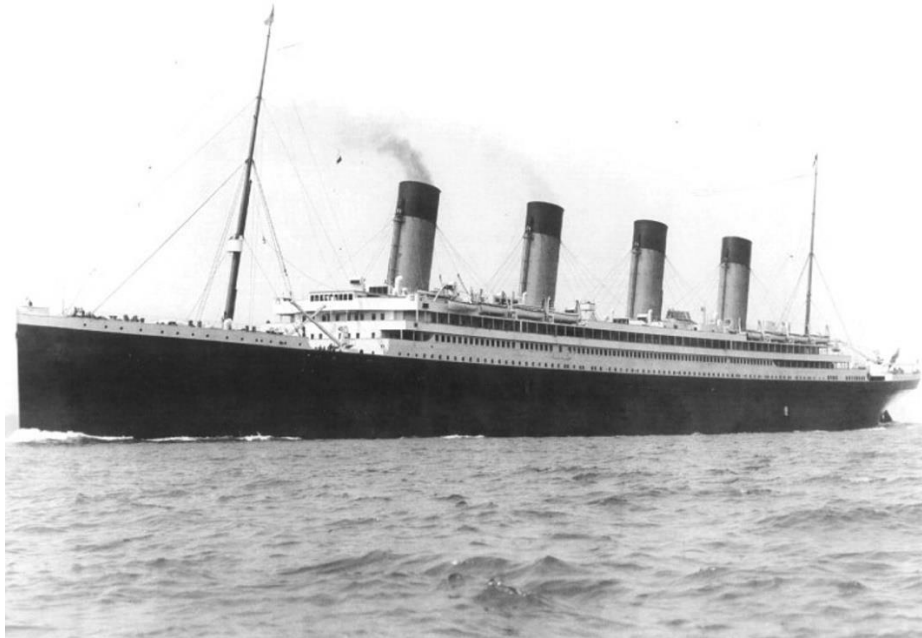
Buxton Canadian Discharge Depot (Empire Hotel, Park Road)

The Empire Hotel was essentially a failed business. There was nothing wrong with the original turn-of-the-century vision; a majestic palace for 300 wealthy guests to stay in the heart of one of England's most beloved spa towns. In 1901, however, no one could foresee the advent of two world wars and the Empire never got its anticipated amount of clients. It became a depot for Canadian soldiers after the First World War and was wiped off the face of the map after falling into disrepair in 1964.



During the First World War over 1,000 Canadian soldiers arrived in the town via ambulance trains at Buxton railway station. Brighton, where soldiers had been treated initially, was considered by the Canadian War Office to be too much of a target, so Buxton was chosen instead as 'the safest place in England'.

Buxton Hydro (left) served as the main treatment centre, but many other buildings around town were also used as Discharge Depots including the Empire Hotel (now demolished) and the Peak Hydropathic (now Buxton Museum and Art Gallery).



7th December 1918 He sailed back to Canada on the RMS Olympic

17th December 1918 Granted Furlough & Subs to 18 January 1919 (The employee retains their job during the salary furlough, which means that the employee retains benefits).

18th January 1919 Discharged from The Canadian Army Medically unfit. His records say "Insane"

JP *vac* *Filed 13*

Number.....53655..... Rank.....*Pte. med.*

Surname.....*BLISS*.....

Christian Names.....*Robert James*.....

Unit.....*18th Bu Can Inf*..... Theatre of War.....*France*

Date of Service.....*16-9-15*.....

Remarks.....*Mrs Bliss High St*..... *INSANE*

.....*Reverden, Kent, England*.....

Latest Address.....*93 Bentley St*.....

.....*St Thomas*.....

Roll No. *B Page 2451* *Out*

Page 2. NOMINAL ROLL OF MEN RETURNED TO CANADA Seaford Party									
Military District Number One				Date of Arrival in Canada					
Sailing Number		1918 Ship		Date of Sailing		Port of Arrival			
Number	Rank	Name	Reserve Unit	Original Unit	Category	Reason for Return	Dependent	Residence	Group
075258	Pte	Roberts J.R.	MED 184th	A	Auth: 3a 3484 of 23-11-18	Mother	Gerrie	London	31
165201		Emmott H.	OSM 2nd Pns	B 2.	do	do	do	do	
204239		Seino J.P.	OSM 22nd D.	B 2.	Auth: 3a 14-1-49 of 15-11-18	Friend	Widson	Widson	
100855		Smith W.R.	OSM C.E.	A	Auth: 3a 3454 of 23-11-18	Father	Widson	Widson	
200453		Stagg W.	OSM C.E.	B 2.	Auth: 3a 14-1-48 of 15-11-18	Father	Widson	Widson	
101243		Thornton G.A.	OSM 66th	B 2.	do	Mother	Woodstock	Woodstock	
190499		Talbot G.F.	OSM 1st.	A	Auth: 3a 3484 of 23-11-18	Wife	St Thomas	St Thomas	
61742		Watt W.C.	OSM 140th	A	do	Wife	Woodstock	Woodstock	
217340		Wellington B.A.	OSM 140th	B 2.	Auth: 3a 14-1-48 of 15-11-18	Father	London	London	
112323		Wood S.	OSM 7th OMR B 1.	A	do	Sister	London	London	
675955		Wyatt H.H.	OSM 168th	A.	Auth: 3a 3484 of 23-11-18	Wife	Widsonburg.	Widsonburg.	1
2 173398	Lt	Barry J.	OSM 52nd	B 2	ag 3. 10. 14-1-48 of 15/11/18	Wife	London	London	2
127044	S/Sgt.	Berry William:	OSM 71st.	B:2.	No suitable employment in England.	Widsonburg.	Mother.	Widsonburg.	3
126826	A/Sgt.	Agnew James A.	OSM 71st.	B:1.	do	do	Wife	Stratford	4
709258	Sgt.	Crawford Frank	OSM 104th	B:1.	do	do	Wife	London	5
602175	Sgt.	Gates, Charles	OSM 34th	B:2.	do	do	Wife	Stratford	6
401597	Sgt.	Hungerford, J.R.	OSM 33rd.	B:2.	do	do	Wife	London	7
823313	Pte.	Aldridge Francis	OSM 142nd.	B:2.	do	do	Mother	St Thomas	8
123007	Pte.	Andrews Frank	OSM 70th.	B:2.	do	do	Mother	Morpeth	9
400870	Pte.	Ashton Alfred	OSM 33rd.	B 2.	do	do	Mother	Wallaceburg	10
541111	Pte.	Askin Robert O	OSM Cyo.	B 1.	do	do	Father	London	11
400710	Pte.	Bailey Albert G.	OSM 33rd.	B:2.	do	do	Brother	Widson	12
214187	Pte.	Bain David	OSM 99th.	B:2.	do	do	Brother	Widson	13
318772	Spr.	Balcom Edward B.	OSM C.E.	B:2.	do	do	Brother	Widson	14
3133978	Pte.	Barrour Frank	OSM C.D.	W.O.R.	B:2.	do	Brother	Widson	15
651446	Pte.	Beaton John B.	OSM 160th.	B:2.	do	do	Wife	London	16
2007078	Spr.	Beaudry Joseph R.	OSM CRT.	B:1.	do	do	Mother	London	17
2011237	Spr.	Bennett John	OSM CRT.	B:1.	do	do	Mother	London	18
928674	Pte.	Bernhardt Cecil	OSM C.D.	153 rd.	B:2.	do	Father	London	19
651865	Pte.	Black Melville E.	OSM C.D.	160th.	B:2.	do	Mother	London	20
203951	Pte.	Black Patrick J.	OSM 87th.	A:4.	(Minor) do	do	Wife	Stratford	21
477076	Pte.	Blatchford Reginald	OSM 28th.	B:2.	do	do	Mother	St Thomas	22
55655	Pte.	Bliss Robert J.	OSM 18th.	B:2.	do	do	Wife	London	23
500445	L/Cpl.	Bolton Charles E.	OSM C.D.	B:2.	do	do	Father	London	24
2608578	Pte.	Beggs Earl S.	OSM CASC.	B:1.	do	do	Mother	London	25
3155055	Pte.	Boynes George A.	OSM W.O.R.	B:1.	do	do	Brother	London	26
928175	Pte.	Brace Harry.	WORD.	153bn.	B2.	No suitable employment in England.	Wife.	London.	27
541059	Pte.	Brandor Allan.	WORD.	Cyo.C.	B2.	"	Mother.	Wallaceburg.	28
190231	Pte.	Bridges George.	OSM.	91bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	St Thomas.	29
3134394	Pte.	Brown Henry.	OSM.	70bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	Widson.	30
123446	Pte.	Bullingham Major.	WORD.	70bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	Widson.	31
928396	Pte.	Burns William	WORD.	153bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	Widson.	32
207507	Pte.	Butler Joseph.	WORD.	1.3a.	B2.	"	Wife.	Widson.	33
2355907	Pte.	Carlson Edwin.	WORD.	1bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	Widson.	34
254961	Cpl.	Carruth Joseph H.	OSM.	161bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	Widson.	35
4005136	Pte.	Chalcraft Mathew J.	WORD.	1.00 Reg.	A4.	Being a Minor.	Mother.	London.	36
983944	Pte.	Chapman Thomas H.	OSM.	142bn.	B2.	No suitable employment in England.	Wife.	London.	37
2699495	Pte.	Collins Winfield J.	OSM.	1bn.	B1.	"	Mother.	Widson.	38
3030646	Pte.	Conlin Michael.	OSM.	1.00 Reg.	B3.	"	Wife.	Widson.	39
528388	Pte.	Copeland Donald.	OSM.	04BN.	B2.	"	Mother.	Widson.	40
727629	Pte.	Crich Snook J.	OSM.	110bn.	B2.	Compassionate Grounds.	Wife.	Widson.	41
190399	Pte.	Clark George.	WORD.	91bn.	B3.	No suitable employment.	Wife.	Widson.	42
2355824	Pte.	Dav John.	OSM.	W.O.Reg.	B2.	"	Sister.	London.	43
334253	Cpr.	Derrig James H.	OSM.	63bn.	B2.	"	Brother.	London.	44
844260	Pte.	Dew Oliver A.	OSM.	148bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	London.	45
226882	Pte.	Deherty John Mo.	OSM.	02B.	B2.	"	Mother.	London.	46
727464	L/C.	Douglas Robert. Mo.	OSM.	110bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	Stratford.	47
602755	Pte.	Duncan James H.	OSM.	34bn.	B2.	"	Wife.	London.	48
751434	Pte.	Ecceles William W.	OSM.	110bn.	B3.	"	Wife.	Kitchener.	49
4008644	Pte.	Evon Ernest.	OSM.	W.O.Reg.	B1.	"	Father.	Widson.	50

Passenger List of the RMS Olympic December 7th 1918

53655 Pte Bliss Robert J

WORD stands for Western Ontario Regimental Depot – The reserve unit he was assigned to.

18th was the Battalion he was the unit he was with originally in France/Belgium.

B:2: Category meant Able to walk 5 miles, see and hear sufficiently for ordinary purposes.

No Suitable Employment in England

Residence – St Thomas Canada

Dependants – His Mother

29th January 1919 entitled to wear 4 blue chevrons - The Overseas Service Chevron was created by the British Army on December 1917 and was awarded for each year of overseas service. It was retroactive to December 31, 1914 and was eligible for award until May 1, 1920 the Canadian Armed Forces used the same Overseas Service Chevrons in World War One as the British.



12th March 1920 Sailed back to England to find his mother on Empress of France.



The first voyage as Empress of France began of 26 September 1919. She sailed from Liverpool to Quebec. Previously named SS Alsatian.

He next appears on the 1939 Census as an inmate at St Augustine Hospital Where he died in 1966.

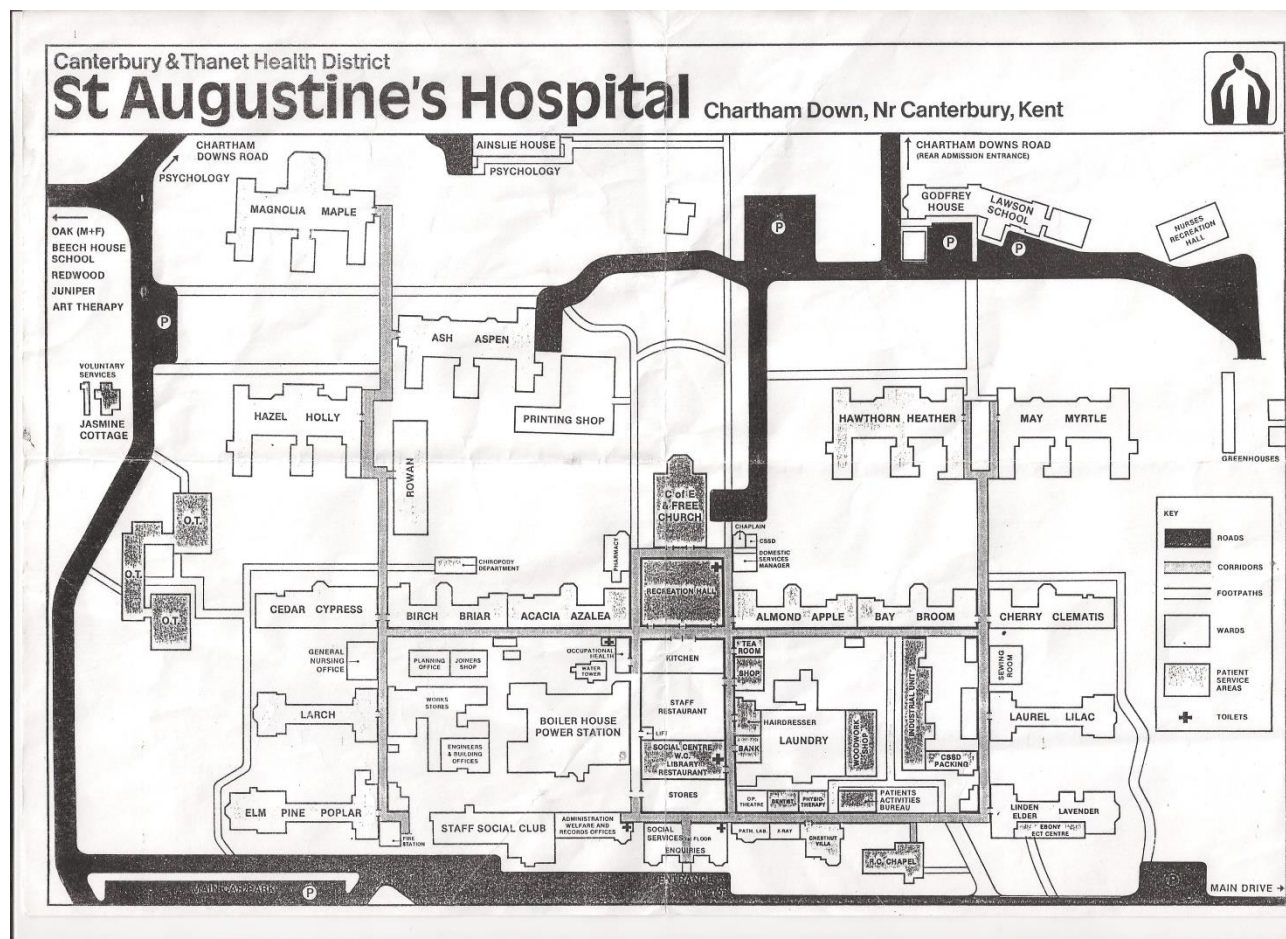
E.D. Letter Code **DJBT** Borough, U.D. or R.D. **Bridge - Blean** Registration District and Sub-district **571**

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Charlton, Hospital, Mental, Grange	X	1	Allen, Valentine, J.	P	M	-	75	M	Incapacitated.
	X	2	Anderson, William	P	M	-	84	S	- " -
	X	3	Allen, William, G.	P	M	-	80	S	- " -
	X	4	Ashton, Albert, A.	P	M	-	83	M	- " -
	X	5	Andrews, Joseph, D.	P	M	-	90	M	- " -
	X	6	Amor, Ernest, G.	P	M	-	73	S	- " -
	X	7	Andrews, Frederick, J.	P	M	27.11.	05	S	- " -
	X	8	Appleyard, Arthur	P	M	23.1.	88	M	- " -
	X	9	Abberley, Edward	P	M	-	75	S	- " -
	X	10	Andrews, Ernest, E.	P	M	23.5.	01	S	- " -
	X	11	Austin, William, J.	P	M	11.7.	79	M	- " -
	X	12	Altwood, Jack	P	M	25.1.	23	S	- " -
	X	13	Burchell, Ernest	P	M	-	94	S	- " -
	X	14	Barton, William	P	M	-	78	M	- " -
	X	15	Bushell, William, L.	P	M	-	79	S	- " -
	X	16	Baddley, William, B.	P	M	-	60	M	- " -
	X	17	Britton, George, G.	P	M	-	73	S	- " -
	X	18	Blake, Leslie, G.	P	M	-	12	S	- " -
	X	19	Birchett, Elmer, E.	P	M	13.5.	91	S	- " -
	X	20	Brown, Norman, A.	P	M	-	92	S	- " -
	X	21	Bracey, George, F.	P	M	-	63	M	- " -
	X	22	Baleman, John, W.	P	M	-	77	S	- " -
	X	23	Barber, William	P	M	-	95	S	- " -
	X	24	Bliss, Robert, J.	P	M	-	94	S	- " -
	X	25	Boorman, James	P	M	-	87	S	- " -
	X	26	Burr, John	P	M	-	76	S	- " -
	X	27	Bowers, William	P	M	-	88	M	- " -
	X	28	Boorman, Sidney, J.	P	M	31.1.	92	S	- " -
	X	29	Brown, John, A.	P	M	-	79	M	- " -
	X	30	Berman, George, J.	P	M	-	76	M	- " -
X	31	Bath, Bette, W.	P	M	-	88	M	- " -	
X	32	Bond, Eli	P	M	-	71	S	- " -	
X	33	Bates, Francis	P	M	25.4.	99	S	- " -	
X	34	Bond, Reuben, W.	P	M	-	78	S	- " -	
X	35	Barrett, James	P	M	-	73	S	- " -	
X	36	Bagley, Dennis	P	M	-	75	W	- " -	
X	37	Bell, John	P	M	-	61	S	- " -	
X	38	Britton, George	P	M	-	78	S	- " -	
X	39	Bailey, Harry, A.	P	M	23.4.	93	S	- " -	
X	40	Beavan, Sidney	P	M	-	01	S	- " -	
X	41	Butter, Fortescue	P	M	-	88	S	- " -	
X	42	Brown, Arthur, J.	P	M	19.11.	09	S	- " -	
X	43	de Braganza, Frederick, N.	P	M	-	09	S	- " -	
X	44	Burton, James, J.	P	M	12.12.	02	M	- " -	

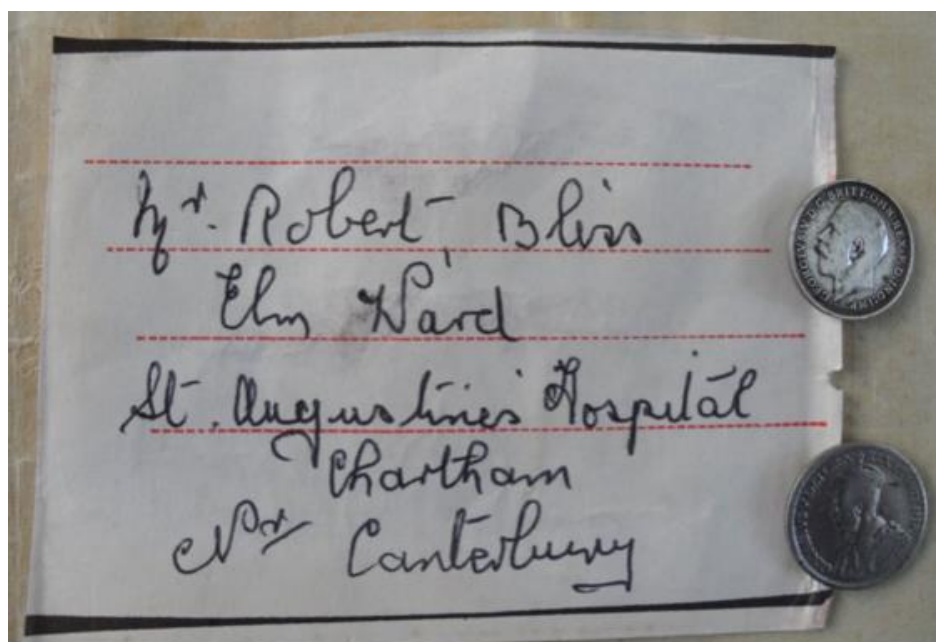
Kent County Asylum Built in 1872-5 to designs by John Giles and Gough, originally for 870 patients.

In 1887 a sanatorium was added with 20 beds. Five villas were added to the south of the main complex, first two 1896, 100 beds each.

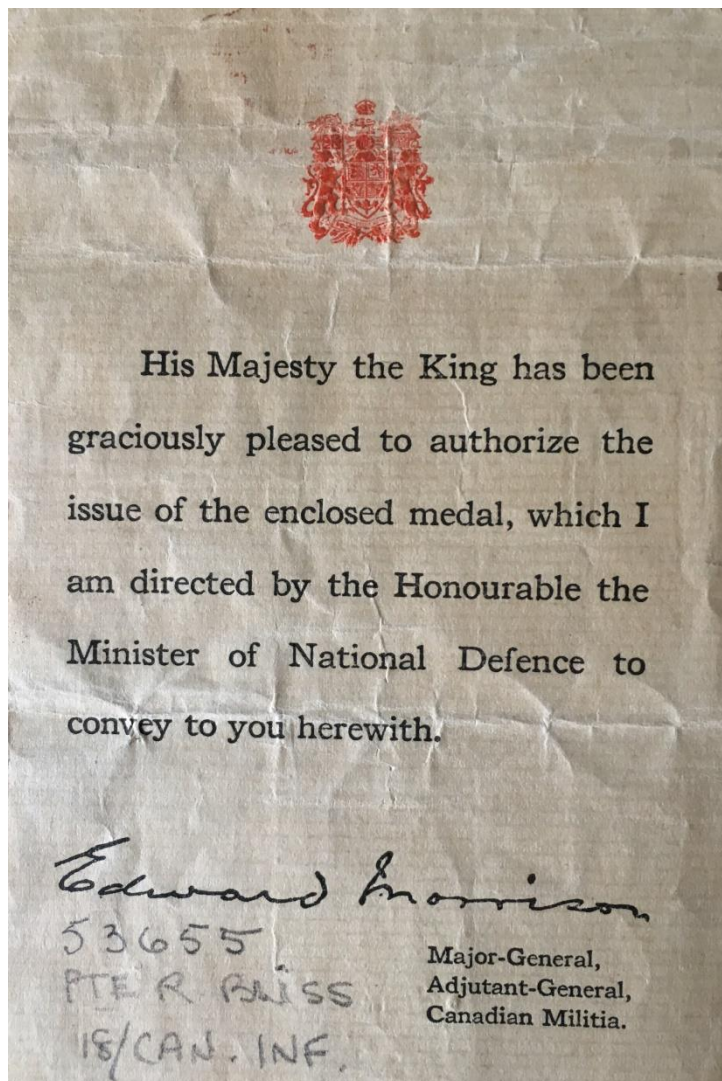
In 1938 new admissions hospital and convalescent villas were added and in 1930s a new nurses' home.



We know Robert spent some time in Elm ward (Bottom Left of the plan above) this was on the address label on his War medals sent to him in Gran Browns handwriting.



Robert J Bliss WW1 Medals



Robert J Bliss – Chartham Asylum

Information received from the Kent Archives in Maidstone who hold the records for St Augustine's Asylum Chartham on file of Robert J Bliss (Jnr)

MH/T3/Mk1: Medical Register (1907-1923)

Date of admission: 3rd August 1920
No. in civil register: 9760
Name: Robert J. Bliss
Civil state: Single
Occupation: Bootmaker, ex-soldier
Occupation schedule symbols: T a 5¹
Age:
On present admission: 26
At onset of present attack: 26
Attack: First attack
Duration of present attack: 3 months
Aetiological factors:
Principal: Insane heredity [A1]
Contributory: War stress [F2 – prolonged mental stress]
Bodily state on admission:
General health: Poor
Name of bodily disease: Tachycardia
Form of mental disorder: Confusional insanity [II ii 5]
Deemed suicidal by Medical Officer: No

Notes sent from researcher Dr Helen Wicker Senior researcher there.

The Chartham Asylum Registers of Patients record that Robert James Bliss junior was admitted to the Asylum on 3 August 1920 as a Service Patient. The subsequent Registers of Patients do not record that he was ever temporarily discharged from the Hospital, although he was reclassified as a voluntary (rather than certified) patient on 19 July 1957.

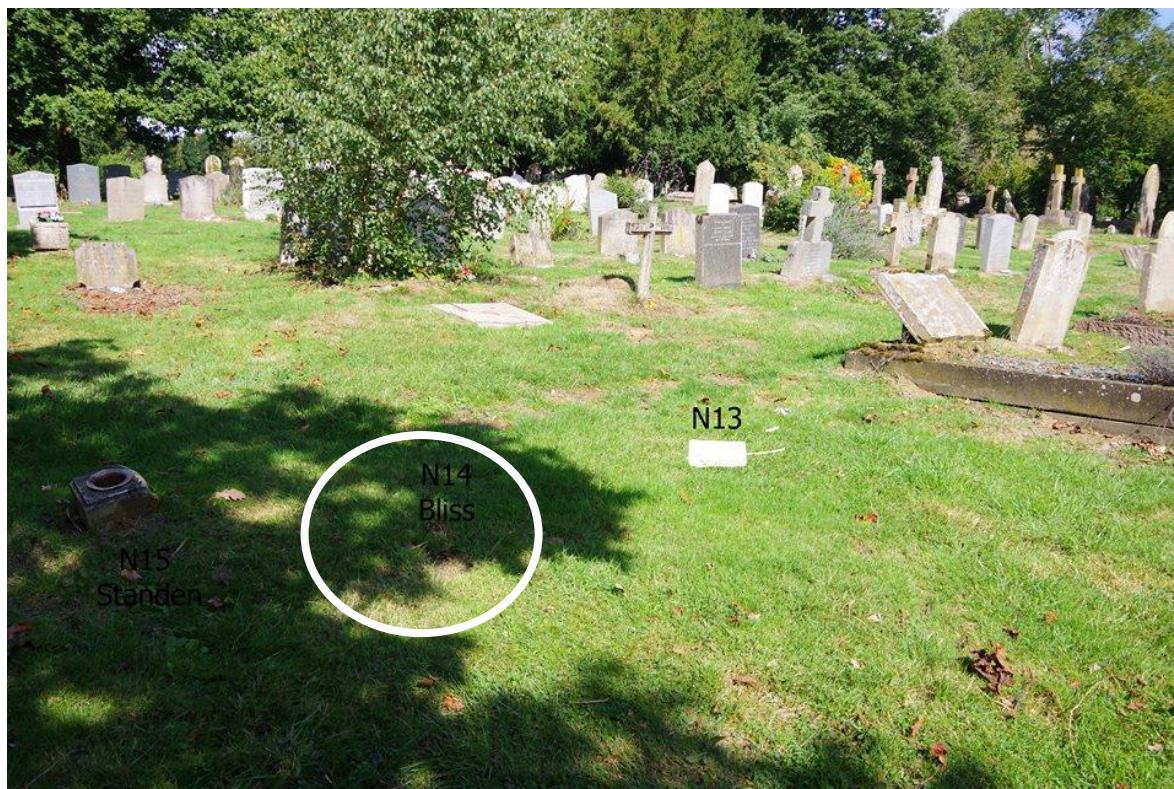
I searched the Case Notes volume covering patients admitted between 1914-1923 [MH/T3/Mc55] but could not find Robert listed. This is not unusual, however. After 1914, the Hospital arranged its patient case notes by date of admission, discharge or death in separate volumes.

However, the notes for long-term patients were frequently extracted and compiled in (presumably) separate case files. Although patient case files from the Hospital are available for the period 1925-1948, they only relate to patients who were discharged or died within this period, so unfortunately there are no surviving detailed notes for Robert junior.

¹ I have been unable to find a key for these occupation classifications.

Robert J Bliss died in November 1966 aged 73 and was buried in St Mary's Church yard in Rolvenden on 24th November 1966. His grave is marked in this picture as N14.

His funeral was attended by just four people, Gran & Grandad Brown and My Mum & Dad.



Robert J Bliss's Grave, Rolvenden Church Yard (Circled)

We think he spent more time, around 40 years in St Augustine's Hospital than he did anywhere else, I have been told that Gran Brown (His Sister) did try and have him out for a while, but the story goes that he couldn't cope in the outside world.

Having been institutionalised for so long and suffering from shell shock and extreme nervousness it seems that sadly St Augustine's was the best place for him. I can only hope that he was happy there after all his whole life was one of sadness, misfortune and upsetting.

I remember as a child sitting outside of the asylum in Chartham in Grandads car with a bag of sweets and some pop while my Gran went in to see her brother, for obvious reasons a young lad was not allowed in the building. Below is a recently placed marker I made for his grave.



Appendix 1



A Typical Field Ambulance in WW1

Background Information

Organized in November 1914 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Campbell.

Authorization published in General Order 36 of 15 March 1915.

Mobilized at Montreal.

Recruited in Military District No. 4.

Left Halifax 18 April 1915 aboard NORTHLAND.

Arrived in England 29 April 1915.

Strength: 11 officers, 259 other ranks.

Arrived in France 16 September 1915.

2nd Canadian Division.

Demobilized at Montreal in May 1919.

Disbanded by General Order 211 of 15 November 1920.

Specific details of No: 6 Canadian Field Ambulance.

Background Information

Organized in November 1914 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. Farmer.

Authorization published in General Order 36 of 15 March 1915.

Mobilized at Toronto and Hamilton.

Recruited in Military District No. 2.

Left Halifax 18 April 1915 aboard NORTHLAND.

Arrived in England 29 April 1915.

Strength: 11 officers, 248 other ranks.

Arrived in France 16 September 1915.

2nd Canadian Division. 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade until 16 August 1915: 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade thereafter.

Demobilized at Toronto in May 1919.

Disbanded by General Order 211 of 15 November 1920.

Specific details of No: 5 Canadian Field Ambulance.



This map shows the area Robert J Bliss fought in from St Eloi Craters on the left along the line to the Bluff on the right Just over the canal.

**A shortened snapshot transcribed from Robert J Bliss' Military Service Record.
His full service record is available via the Canadian Army website for free.**

[Search: Personnel Records of the First World War - Library and Archives Canada \(bac-lac.gc.ca\)](http://bac-lac.gc.ca)

Date	Event	Remarks
Nov 2, 1914	Enlisted	Enlisted at St. Thomas. He was a labourer and listed his mother Eliza, residing at Folkestone, England, as his next of kin. Standing 5'9" tall, with a chest of 34" with a 3" expansion, this 22-year-old man had no prior military experience.
Nov 11, 1914	Inoculated	Typhoid inoculations.
Nov 22, 1914	Inoculated	Typhoid inoculations.
Dec 18, 1914	Vaccinated	
Apr 1, 1915	Assigned Pay	On this date Pte. Bliss, of "C" Company, assigns \$15.00 per month to his mother. She is shown to reside at 4 Wellington Mews, Folkestone, Kent, England.
Apr 29, 1915	Arrive England	The Battalion arrives at Avonmouth, England and proceeds by train to West Sandling.
Jun 7, 1915	Absent Without Leave	Forfeits 1-day's pay for being AWL.
Jun 21, 1915	Absent Without Leave	Forfeits 1-day's pay for being AWL.
Sep 1, 1915	Absent Without Leave	Forfeits 1-day's pay for being AWL.
Sep 14, 1915	Embarks Overseas	Embarks with the 18 th Battalion for service in Belgium. Arriving at Boulogne, France, the Battalion moves to the front.
Apr 9, 1916	Wounded	The War Diary relates on this day 1 other rank killed in action and 25 other ranks wounded. Private Bliss was most likely wounded on this day.

Apr 10, 1916	Wounded	With his wounding Private Bliss proceeded first to No. 6 Canadian Field Ambulance. Then to No. 10 Casualty Clearing Station. From there he embarks on No. 23 Hospital Train. Received at No. 8 Stationary Hospital, Wimereux. GSW to right arm.
Apr 15, 1916	Transferred	Transferred to No. 5 Convalescent Depot.
May 2, 1916	Discharged to Base	Discharged to Canadian Base Depot.
May 2 to 7 1916	Base Hospital	GSW right arm. Returns to unit.
May 9, 1916	Arrives with Unit	After a short convalesce Private Bliss returns to the 18 th Battalion.
Jul 3, 1916	Wounded/Ill	Contused back due to shell and pyrexia. Admitted to No. 5 CFA. Then transferred to No. 25 General Hospital. Another card shows this wound as a GSW to spine.
Jul 5, 1916	Transferred	Transferred to Canadian Base Depot.
Aug 18, 1916	Transferred	Designated Class "C" and sent to CCAC.
Aug 20, 1916	Arrives CCAC	Arrives Canadian Casualty Assembly Center at Folkestone.
Aug 21, 1916	Medical Board	Indicates that he has been nervous and shaky for 3-months and there is no organic cause.
Jan 31, 1917	Taken on Strength	Taken on strength from CCD to 4 th Reserve Battalion, West Sandling.
Feb 14, 1917	Medical Board	Proceedings of a Medical board on this date indicate "Slight Tachycardia. Recruit exhibits signs of extreme nervousness." The Board recommends a status of B2.
Mar 6, 1917	On Transfer	On transfer from CCAC to 4 th Reserve Battalion, Bramshott. On command.
May 4, 1917	On Command	Detached 4 th Reserve Battalion to Western Ontario Regimental Depot (WORD). On command with WORD at Mytchett Camp near Aldershot.

Nov 19, 1918	Attached	Attached Depot Company, Witley Camp, Surrey England.
Nov 25, 1918	Attached	Canadian Discharge Depot Buxton Derbyshire for return to Canada
Dec 7 1918	Detached	Detached from CDD Buxton and sailed for Canada.
Dec 12, 1918	Granted Furlough	Granted furlough and subsistence pay until January 8, 1919.
Jan 6, 1919	Dental Exam	Dentist Captain J.D. Campbell notes that tooth no. 18 was extracted.
Jan 18, 1919	Account Opened	Post Discharge Pay Office records an account open and Private Bliss' address is 93 Centre Street, St. Thomas, Ontario.
Jan 18, 1919	Discharged	According to this Discharge Certificate, Private Bliss was released from his service at London, Ontario (Military District 1) as medically unfit due to a GSW to his right arm. His last pay certificate shows his mother living at Church Terrace, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent, England.
Jan 27, 1919	Granted Permission	Granted permission to wear 4 blue chevrons showing four years of service.



Witley Camp, Surrey England 1917-18