

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte & World War One The First Volunteers

On the 4th of August 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany. With this declaration, Canada was at war.

Four men from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte community volunteered in 1914.

In August 1914, Cornelius Barnhart known as "Con" went to Picton, Prince Edward County, to volunteer but he was re-directed to Valcartier, Quebec (which was the location of the main military training base in Canada at the start of the war). His attestation paper (or sign-up paper) is dated the 22nd September 1914. *(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-3/166 Box 454-53)*

On the same day in Valcartier, another community member, David Austin Powles, volunteered. *(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-3/166 Box 7950-20)*

Both these men started their service with the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry, Eastern Ontario Regiment.

The next day in Valcartier, Quebec, Thomas Mungo volunteered to serve. He served in the 16th Battalion, Canadian Infantry. *(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166 Box 6483-17)*

Then on the 30th of December 1914 in Estevan, Saskatchewan, Frank Bardy volunteered to serve with the 27th Battalion, Manitoba Regiment. *(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166 Box 427-22)*

Of these four men, only one, David Austin Powles, returned home. The following describes a little bit about their military history.

CON (CORNELIUS) BARNHART

Regimental Number: 7711

Parents: Charles & Susan (Maracle) Barnhart

Born: 15th September 1887 according to 1901 census; born 18th September 1888 according to his attestation paper

Rank: Private

From his WW1 military file we learn:

He was a carpenter before the war.

11th April 1915 - he was stationed at Rouen, France.

June 1915 - he suffered slight gunshot wounds to finger and right hand and returned to the trenches in August. The wound was found to be accidentally self-inflicted.

8th & 9th January 1916 - he suffered gastroenteritis.

13th February & 7th March 1916 - he suffered bronchitis.

31st March 1916 - he suffered pleurisy.

9th April 1916 - he was wounded. He suffered shrapnel wound to 3rd finger of right hand. The finger was amputated at "metacarpo phalangeal joint" in France.

16th July 1916 - he suffered a gunshot wound to his right hand.

23rd January 1917 - he was "in confinement awaiting trial". He had been charged with the following:

"When on active service, conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he used improper language to his superior office..."

He was convicted and sentenced to 90 days.

9th April 1917, at Vimy Ridge - he was wounded and then hospitalized the 14th April 1917 in France. He suffered a shrapnel or shell wound to his right foot. This took some time to heal.

24th November 1918 - he was submitted to the No. 12 Canadian General Hospital. He entered under the diagnosis of influenza and bronchitis. He was suffering from headache, severe pain in his legs and he had a fever. He was unable to keep food down. He had the fever for 4 days then nearly normal

temperature for 9 days. Then there was a sudden rise to 105 degrees. A lumbar puncture revealed "turbid fluid under pressure". He suffered convulsive seizures after the lumbar puncture.

He was unconscious for his final 24 hours. He died at 7:30 pm on the 13th December 1918 in the No. 12 Canadian General Hospital in Bramshott, England. One report in his file stated he died of cerebrospinal meningitis.

Penicillin would have saved his life, but it had not been discovered yet.

Con was buried in Bramshott (St. Mary) Churchyard, Hampshire, England.

Documents in his military file indicate he was eligible for: the 1914-15 Star which was a campaign medal; the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-3/166 Box 454-53)

His siblings:

Nicholas James	born 1865	married Susan Doreen/McCullough
John Robert	born about 1867	married Annie Moses
Mary Anne	born about 1869	married John P. Moses; John A. MacDonald from New Credit
David Henry	born 1870	married Lydia Maracle/Blanchard
Sarah Catherine	born about 1872	married William Barnhart
Charles	born about 1873	
Joseph	born about 1876	(WW1 volunteer) married Margaret Morgan
Jacob	born 1878	married Louise Bowler; Lillian Doherty
Agnes	born about 1880	
William	born 1882	married Margaret Maracle; Esther Cayuga
Margaret	born 1885	married Charles W. Bailey

DAVID AUSTIN POWLES

Regimental Number: 7784

Parents: William & Jemima (Pierce) Powless

Born: 24th May 1890 according to the 1901 census; born 24th May 1889 according to his attestation paper

Rank: Private

From his WW1 military file we learn:

He was a machinist before the war.

April 1915 - he was suffered a gunshot wound to the thigh.

May 1915 - he was wounded again.

September 1915 - He was discharged as medically unfit with an authorized cable from Ottawa in September 1915. *(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-3/166 Box 7950-20)*

After the war, David Austin Powles worked as a machinist in Oshawa. Later still, records show he moved to Atherley near Orillia.

While we don't know much about David Austin's family, there is some indication that he may have married a woman named Edna. We do not know if there were any children. But it looks as if he never returned to Tyendinaga or to Prince Edward County (where his father lived).

We do not know exactly when he died but it appears to be sometime between 1953 and 1966. We thank Jennifer Murrant of the Orillia Public Library for this information.

His siblings:

David Austin's sister Ella married James Mulholland in 1915. They had a daughter Margaret who was born in April 1915.

Ella Powles Mulholland died in 1915.

Margaret eventually married Lawrence Burford.

THOMAS MUNGO

Regimental Number: 28537

Parents: Charlotte Smart & John Mungle aka Mungo

Born: 4th May 1875 on baptismal; born 1877 according to his attestation paper

Rank: Private

From his WW1 military file we learn:

He was a teamster before the war.

13th February 1915 - he arrived in France.

21st February 1915 - he suffered a "contusion" related to duty.

April 1915 - he suffered an injured leg in France.

July 1916 - he was sentenced to 14 days Field Punishment for "Drunkenness" while on active service.

16th August 1917 - he was "dangerously" wounded with gunshot wounds to chest and arm. These wounds were received in action. On the 17th he was sent to the No. 7 Casualty Clearing Station in Rouen, France. He died of his wounds 25th August 1917 in France. *(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166 Box 6483-17)*

He was buried at Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. *(Source: LAC "Circumstances of Death Registers" RG150 Accession 1992-3/314 Mfm 31829_B0116757 pp. 452-3)*

Documents in his military file indicate he was eligible for: the 1914-15 Star which was a campaign medal; the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. *(Source: LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166 Box 6483-17)*

Thomas Mungo married Carrie Cahoun on the 28th July 1897. Carrie was the daughter of Christine Loft.

Children:

Avis	born 1897 died 1972
Dorsey	born 1899
Henry Anthony	born 1901 died 1928 (also volunteered for WW1)
Leo	born 1902
Clarence Edward	born 1904 died 1971 (He served in WW2)
Bessie May	born 1906 died 1907

FRANK BARDY

Regimental Number: 26204

Parents: Lydia or Lillie Hill (later Mrs. Lillie Deans)

(Frank was raised by Peter & Lydia (Doxtator) Bardy)

Born: 23rd March 1896 according to attestation paper.

(He was possibly born 25th March 1897 & baptized as "Hebrew Barnes Hill" 17th April 1897 (CR)).

Rank: Private

Frank was "Killed in Action". "During an attack on the enemy's position, this soldier was killed by a shell fire. 10th April 1917 at Vimy Ridge." (*LAC Circumstances of Death Registers Microform 31829_B016715 pp. 1040-41*)

Buried at Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

Notes:

Some Personnel files for MBQ WW1 volunteers have been digitized and are available at the Library and Archives Canada web site. During this year and the next the LAC will be digitizing all the WW1 military personnel files for free access. All information provided in this article is accessible to the public.

“Attestation Paper” – is the military term for sign up paper.

“Battalions” - During World War One, the Canadian Army was formed into infantry battalions to serve in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Only a few remained intact once they arrived in England. Most were broken up and absorbed into other battalions. If you take the opportunity to see the personnel file of a MBQ volunteer from WW1, you will see that a man might be transferred from battalion to battalion a few times during his service.

The battalions sometimes have other names. The 2nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), was known as the Eastern Ontario Regiment. The 16th Battalion (CEF) was known as “Canadian Scottish”.