



## PARNELL, Harold Ernest



Served as a Canadian , Service No: 113473, Private 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles  
(Central Ontario Regiment)

.8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division

Age: 29 Date of Death: 01/10/1916

He was born in South Green, Fingringhoe 23rd March 1887. Son of Mrs. Fanny Parnell, of 18, West St., Colchester, Essex, England. At the time of the 1901 Census he lived in East Donyland Boot Factory Clicker. 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles. Formed at Toronto in Dec 1914. To the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles Brigade. Arrived in France 24-10-1915. *The year 1916 saw the Battle of the Somme. But before the Canadians joined that ill-fated operation, they were engaged in local offensives in the southern part of the Ypres Salient. At their first battle, at St. Eloi, the Canadians of the 2nd Division suffered 1,373 casualties in 12 days of confused attacks and counter-attacks on a battlefield of water-filled craters and shell-holes. The 3rd Division's initiation to battle was even more devastating, for the Germans mounted a massive attack against their positions at Mount Sorrel. In the fierce bombardment, whole sections of trench were obliterated and the defending garrisons annihilated. The force of explosions hurled human bodies and even the trees of Sanctuary Wood into the air as the enemy succeeded in capturing the important vantage-points of Mount Sorrel and Hills 61 and 62. The 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles bore the brunt of losses: 89 per cent of its members became casualties. Of 702 soldiers, only 76 came through unscathed. In late August 1916, the Canadian divisions moved to the Somme, where they took over a section of the front line in front of the village of Courcellette. The recently-arrived 4th Division remained in the north, as part of a combined force under British command. On September 15, the 2nd and 3rd Divisions assaulted and captured the village. In the weeks that followed, the Canadians attacked again and again to advance only a few hundred metres over shell-pocked, corpse-strewn land. The deadly battlefield was crisscrossed by German defences—Hessian Trench, Kenora Trench and Regina Trench, which was finally taken on November 11.*

.Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead



Memorial: VIMY MEMORIAL Country: France  
Locality: Pas de Calais

On the opening day of the Battle of Arras, 9 April 1917, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps, fighting side by side for the first time, scored a huge tactical victory in the capture of the 60 metre high Vimy Ridge. After the war, the highest point of the ridge was chosen as the site of the great memorial to all Canadians who served their country in battle during the First World War, and particularly to the 60,000 who gave their lives in France. It also bears the names of 11,000 Canadian servicemen who died in France - many of them in the fight for Vimy Ridge - who have no known grave.

*9/2/15*

101 Duplicate

ATTESTATION PAPER

No. ~~864~~  
Folio. 113473

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.  
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Harold Parnell
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Calchester, England.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Fanny Parnell
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 18 West Street, Calchester, Eng.
5. What is the date of your birth? 23rd March 1887
6. What is your trade or calling? Labourer
7. Are you married? No
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?  
If so, state particulars of former Service. 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

H Parnell (Signature of Man.)  
W T Brown (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Harold Parnell, 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.

Date July 24th 1915 H Parnell (Signature of Recruit.)  
W T Brown (Signature of Witness.)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Harold Parnell, 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.

Date July 24th 1915 H Parnell (Signature of Recruit.)  
W T Brown (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 Barriefield this 24th day of July 1915

[Signature] (Signature of Justice.)

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

Walter T. Brown (Approving Officer.)  
[Signature]

DESCRIPTION OF Harold Parnell ON ENLISTMENT.

Apparent Age 28 years 4 months.  
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Height 5 ft. 5 ins.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Chest measure 36 ins.  
(Girth when fully expanded)  
 Range of expansion 3 ins.

**Vac. 2 on Left Arm.**

Complexion Fair.

Eyes Blue.

Hair Light Brown.

Religious Denominations  
 Church of England Yes  
 Presbyterian  
 Methodist  
 Baptist or Congregationalist  
 Other Protestants  
(Denomination to be stated.)  
 Roman Catholic  
 Jewish

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-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date July 21st 1915

Place Toronto, Ont.

*A. M. C.*  
 Capt. A. M. C.  
 Medical Officer.

\*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT

Harold Parnell 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 July 27th 1915

*J. M. ...* (Signature of Officer.)

These pages are dedicated to the memory of the Fallen from the two World Wars, who lived in Abberton & Langenhoe.. Prepared by Saint Andrew's Parochial Church Council. November 11th 2000