

## **Sergeant Thomas Ewart McHardy**

**Regimental Number: 238566<sup>1</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (Central Ontario Regiment), Canadian Expeditionary Force**

**born: October 1899 - died: 6 December 1918**

Sergeant Thomas Ewart McHardy was born in the Parish of Saint Andrew, in Kingston, Jamaica in October 1899.<sup>2</sup> He was the son of Alexander Campbell McHardy and his wife, Helen Hay Randall. Thomas' father, Alexander, born about 1871, was the son of Charles McHardy.<sup>3</sup> Helen, born about 1861, was the daughter of Caleb Edward Randall and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Henderson.<sup>4</sup> Alexander and Helen married in Kingston, Jamaica on 11 January 1894.<sup>5</sup> Both Alexander and his father-in-law, Caleb Randal were ministers of the gospel and were key figures in the Church of the Disciples of Christ in Jamaica.<sup>6</sup> Alexander and Helen had at least three children: Charles Courtney (born in 1895),<sup>7</sup> Thomas (born in 1899) and Alec Edward (born in 1901).<sup>8</sup>

When Thomas came to Canada from Kingston, Jamaica in August 1916, he was 18 years old, single and a clerk.<sup>9</sup> He was described as being of British Jamaican nationality and of West Indian race. His mother was living at 3 Ivy Road, Cross Roads, Kingston. The term "non-immigrant" appears to be stamped beside his name. However, in the Caribbean Rolls of Honour, Thomas is described as being a Canadian.<sup>10</sup>

Thomas served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.<sup>11</sup> Thomas, who was then a Private, was wounded on 26 July 1917, when his unit was in northern France.<sup>12</sup> He obviously recovered and continued with his Battalion. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was part of the army of occupation that moved from northern France, after the signing of the Armistice, to the Rhine. On 31 December 1918, Thomas, then a Sergeant, was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. He died there six days later of influenza and pneumonia. He was initially buried in Poppelsdorfer Friedhof Communal Cemetery (Grave 5, Plot 1, Row A) in Bonn, Germany with the chaplain A. D. Reid presiding. His body was exhumed in the spring of 1919 and he was reburied in the Brussels Town Cemetery (Plot 10, Row 10, Grave 3) on Chaussée de Louvain in Brussels, Belgium.<sup>13</sup>

When Thomas was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS, his Battalion was stationed in Lind, Germany, about 40 kilometres south-east of Bonn and it was a usual day of training for the troops.<sup>14</sup> The month of December had been a busy month with lots of moves for the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS but, by 21 December, the unit was in Bonn and situated in "the best hospital in Bonn on the Venusberg overlooking the City and the Rhine."<sup>15</sup> The Officer-in-Charge noted that the unit had been able to "feed, house and treat our patients as well as could be done anywhere and the value of being able to start receiving quickly after arrival at a new site had been again demonstrated to ourselves in noting the good condition in which the patients had arrived after a short drive from the Field Ambulance." On 31 December alone, 42 patients had been admitted, for a total of 132 remaining at the CCCS the end of the year. Sixteen Canadian soldiers died at the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS in January 1919. Influenza accounted for most deaths at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station after the Armistice.

Thomas is remembered on the Caribbean Roll of Honour and his parents are listed as living at 176 Orange St., Kingston, Jamaica, British West Indies.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station records show his Regimental number as 238566. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission gives it as 238114.

<sup>2</sup> "Jamaica, Civil Registration," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); accessed 10 April 2015), entry for Thomas Ewart McHardy, District: Galloway, Line Number: 435, GS Film Number: 0538790, Digital Folder Number: 004492562, Image Number: 01488

<sup>3</sup> "Jamaica, Civil Registration," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); accessed 9 April 2015), entry for Helen Hay Randall, GS Film Number: 0821446, Digital Folder Number: 004884510, Image Number: 05162

<sup>4</sup> "Jamaica, Civil Registration," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); accessed 10 April 2015), entry for Alan Burgess Randall, District: Kingston, Line Number: 8362, GS Film Number: 0821498, Digital Folder Number: 004492572, Image Number: 00234

<sup>5</sup> "Jamaica, Civil Registration," entry for Helen Hay Randall

<sup>6</sup> "1900 Handbook of Jamaica: Church and Clergy"

(<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/Samples/handbk10.htm>; accessed 10 April 2015)

<sup>7</sup> "Jamaica, Civil Registration," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); accessed 10 April 2015), entry for Charles Courteney Mchardy, District: Kingston, Line Number: 1490, GS Film Number: 0821456, Digital Folder Number: 004492567, Image Number: 02041

<sup>8</sup> "Jamaica, Civil Registration," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); accessed 10 April 2015), entry for Alec Edward Mchardy, District: Kingston, Reference ID: 819, GS Film Number: 821461, Digital Folder Number: 004519705, Image Number: 00354

<sup>9</sup> "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935." *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 9 April 2015), entry for Thomas E McHardy

<sup>10</sup> "Caribbean Rolls of Honour"

(<http://caribbeanrollofhonour-ww1-ww2.yolasite.com/army-ww1.php>; accessed 9 April 2015)

<sup>11</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 739

<sup>12</sup> "3RD BN WAR DIARIES 1917," *The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum and Archives* (<http://qormuseum.org/the-first-world-war/perpetuated-battalions/3rd-toronto-battalion-canadian-expeditionary-force/3rd-bn-war-diaries-1917/>; accessed 9 April 2015)

<sup>13</sup> "Canada, CEF Commonwealth War Graves Registers, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 9 April 2015), entry for T. E. Mchardy, Service number: 238114

<sup>14</sup> "3RD BN WAR DIARIES 1918," *The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum and Archives* (<http://qormuseum.org/the-first-world-war/perpetuated-battalions/3rd-toronto-battalion-canadian-expeditionary-force/3rd-battalion-war-diaries-1918/>; accessed 9 April 2015)

<sup>15</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31,"

*Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FOUND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FOUND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G))

<sup>16</sup> "Caribbean Rolls of Honour"