

Driver Henry Charles Victor Waller

Regimental Number: 1250169

2nd Divisional Ammunition Column, Canadian Field Artillery

born: 5 November 1891 - died: 18 November 1918

Driver Henry Charles Victor Waller was born on 5 November 1891 in the Regional Municipality of Wallace, about 300 kilometres west of Winnipeg, Manitoba.¹ He was the son of Richard de Warenne Waller and his wife, Elizabeth Hannah. Richard was born in 1857 in Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1882.² Elizabeth was born in 1859 in Ontario, Canada.³ They had six children, all born in Wallace. There were four sons – Richard de Warenne (born in 1887),⁴ Edward George (born in 1889),⁵ Henry Charles Victor, and Archie Francis (born in 1899)⁶ – and two daughters – Dorothy Blanche (born in 1894)⁷ and Annie Mona (born in 1896).⁸ It is not clear what Christian name Henry Charles Victor used – often family members were only referred to by their initials. Records refer to Henry Charles Victor most commonly as H. C. V. but, for this biography, he will be called Henry.

Their father, Richard, had a number of occupations but he appears to have been primarily a farmer,⁹ but also worked as an insurance agent¹⁰ and an estate agent in Elkhorn Village.¹¹ Given that his sons, between the ages of 16 and 29 in 1916, were living at home, they were likely looking after the farm while their father did other off-farm jobs. Two sons were already in the army. When Henry enlisted on 15 November 1916 he was described as a farmer in Elkhorn. He was 5' 7" tall, had a fair complexion, blue eyes and auburn hair and was considered fit to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.

Henry served with the 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column of the Canadian Field Artillery, transporting artillery and small arms ammunition for the unit to which it belonged. At the



H C V Waller in Auberchicourt Cemetery
(Source: Author)

beginning of November 1918, the unit was located in northern France.¹² On 11 November, the unit was in Eugies, just across the border into Belgium, where it had been well received by the local population. It was there that the men learned of the signing of the Armistice. "At 10.15 hours a message was received from H.Q. 2nd C Da by runner to the effect that an Armistice [sic] had been signed and this caused a celebration amongst the population and "Vive les Canadiens" "Vive le Canada" etc. could be heard all around the village."¹³

The same day, the unit marched to Hyon and Frameries, also in Belgium. On 14 November the unit received orders that the 2nd Canadian Division would form part of the army of occupation and would march to the Rhine and the entry noted that "Wagons and harness [were] being put into best possible shape and men fitted with new clothing as far as possible."¹⁴

Unfortunately, Henry would not make this journey. On 14 November he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, near Auberchicourt, about 70 kilometres back into France.¹⁵ He died there on 18 November – just day after his 27th birthday and the same day that his unit left Hyon on the march to the Rhine. He was buried the same day in the Auberchicourt British Military Cemetery (Grave 15, Plot 1, Row B) with the chaplain W. O'Neill Fisher presiding. The chaplain notified his father of his death.

All Henry's brothers also served in World War I. All three brothers had previously served with the 12th Manitoba Dragoons before enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Richard, a farmer, enlisted in December 1914.¹⁶ Edward George, a land surveyor, enlisted in September 1918¹⁷ and Archie, also a farmer, enlisted in January 1917.¹⁸ In 1916, Richard was a Captain and Edward a Lieutenant, both in the 2nd Canadian Battalion.¹⁹ Unlike Henry, they all survived the war. Richard married Florence Edith Smith in 1920²⁰ and was living in Brandon in 1921.²¹ Edward and his sister, Dorothy, were living in Minnedosa, Manitoba, in the same year.²² Dorothy married Jesse Hunter Mitchell in 1923.²³ Archie died in Vancouver in 1960.²⁴

Henry's father, Richard, died in 1927 in Elkhorn.²⁵ Sadly, his mother, Elizabeth, had died many years earlier, dying in Elkhorn on 1 September 1911 at the age of 52.

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¹ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records: Birth," *Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency*

(<http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>; accessed 22 March 2015), entry for Henry Chas Victor Waller

² "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 14 March 2015), entry for Richard DC W Waller, Province: Manitoba, District: Brandon, District Number: 6, Sub-District: Wallace, Sub-District Number: M-2

³ "1901 Census of Canada," entry for Richard DC W Waller

⁴ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 23 March 2015), entry for Richard de Warren Waller

⁵ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records," entry for Edward George Waller

⁶ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records," entry for Archie Francis Waller

⁷ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records," entry for Dorothy Blanche Waller

⁸ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records," entry for Annie Mona Waller

⁹ "1891 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 21 March 2015), entry for Richard De W Waller, Province: Manitoba, District Number: 9, District: Selkirk, Subdistrict: Wallace; "1906 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 21 March 2015), entry for William Davies, Province: Manitoba, District: Brandon, Sub-District Description: Townships 11 and 12, ranges 27, 28 and 29 west, Sub-District: 18

¹⁰ "1901 Census of Canada," entry for Richard DC W Waller

¹¹ "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 21 March 2015), entry for R De W Waller, Sub District Desc.: Townships 11 and 12, ranges 28 and 29 W.P.M., including the Village of Elkhorn. Oak Lake, Oak River. Griswold

¹² "War diaries of the First World War: 2nd Canadian Divisional Ammunition Column 1918/05/01-1919/02/28," http://data4.collectionscanada.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=Canadian+Divisional+Ammunition+Column&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=4&f=G; accessed 21 March 2015)

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ "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 720

¹⁶ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," entry for Richard de Warren Waller

¹⁷ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," entry for Edward George Waller

¹⁸ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," entry for Archie Francis Alexander Waller

¹⁹ "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," entry for R De W Waller

²⁰ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records: Marriage," *Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency* (<http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>; accessed 21 March 2015), entry Richard de Warren Waller

²¹ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 12 March 2015), entry for Edward Waller, Province or Territory: Manitoba, District: Marquette, District Number:23, Sub-District: Minnedosa (Town), Sub-District Number: 54, City, Town or Village: Town of Minnedosa

²² "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 12 March 2015), entry for Edward Waller, Province or Territory: Manitoba, District: Brandon, District Number:26, Sub-District: Brandon (City), Sub-District Number: 41, City, Town or Village: Brandon

²³ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records: Marriage," *Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency* (<http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>; accessed 21 March 2015), entry Dorothy Blanche Waller

²⁴ "Veterans Death Cards: First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.02-e.php?q2=36&interval=50&sk=0>; accessed 14 April 2015), entry for Waller, Archie Francis

²⁵ "Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records: Death," *Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency* (<http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>; accessed 21 March 2015), entry Richard de Warenne Waller