

## Private Paul Barber Hounsell

**Regimental Number:** 73212

**26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force**

**born: 1896 - died: 29 November 1918**

Private Paul Barber Hounsell, born on 21 December 1896 in Minnesota, United States of America,<sup>1</sup> was the son of James Barber Hounsell and his wife, Adeline.<sup>2</sup> His father, James Barber Hounsell, was born on 24 June 1856 in the United States, the son of William and Martha Hounsell, both born in England. Paul's mother, Adeline, was also born in the United States on 28 May 1862. Paul had two older brothers and two older sisters – Milo T. (born about 1883), Vergie J. (born about 1885), James R. (also called Reuban J.) born about 1888) and Iva B. (born about 1891). The family lived in Lake Mary, Douglas County, Minnesota until immigrating to Canada in 1901.

When it immigrated to Canada, the family lived near Butler, in the District of Saskatchewan in the Northwest Territories.<sup>3</sup> In 1903, it moved to the Winton District near Humboldt, Saskatchewan (Township 48, Range 23, West 2), which was on the main trail from Prince Albert to Fort-A-La-Corne.<sup>4</sup> The family continued to live there in 1906.<sup>5</sup> In 1916, Paul was the only child living with his parents.<sup>6</sup> But they were living next door to Paul's two brothers, Milo and Reuban, now married with children of their own. All were farming.

When Paul enlisted in the 65<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 20 August 1915 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, he was an 18-year old farmer.<sup>7</sup> His next of kin was his father, James, living in Winton. He was 5' 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" tall, with a dark complexion, grey eyes and brown hair and was considered fit for service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The 65<sup>th</sup> Battalion recruited in Saskatchewan (in both Saskatoon and Prince Albert) and Manitoba.<sup>8</sup> It was authorized in April 1915 and embarked for Great Britain in June 1916. The battalion was disbanded on 12 October 1917. By the time he was admitted to the



P B Hounsell in Gosselies Communal cemetery  
(Source: Author)

1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, Paul was serving with the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion and had been, at some point, taken prisoner. He was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS as a returning prisoner of war on 24 November 1918.<sup>9</sup> He died of broncho-pneumonia on 29 November<sup>10</sup> and was buried two days later in Gosselies Communal Cemetery (Grave 250). The chaplain, W. O'Neill Fisher, who presided at his burial also notified his father, who was still in Winton, Saskatchewan, of his death.



Paul Hounsell\*. Military Medal.

Source: Marjorie Manson

When he was admitted to the 1st CCCS, the unit was located in the "... Convent de la Providence. This large building had been used by the Germans on their Advance in 1914 and again in their retreat in 1918. The good nuns had thoroughly cleaned the place and stacked the German beds and mattresses. These were soon placed so that within a few hours of arrival the 23<sup>rd</sup> we were ready to receive."<sup>11</sup> The unit continued to be very busy, receiving twice the number of patients than the 300 for which they were

equipped. Paul died the day that they began to evacuate from the Gosselies location and the day that his unit, the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, began a four-day to the German border.<sup>12</sup>

Gosselies Communal Cemetery is located near Hainaut, Belgium.<sup>13</sup> The ten First World War soldiers buried there all died after the Armistice.

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Graves of nine WW1 soldiers in Gosselies Communal cemetery (Source: Author)

<sup>1</sup> "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 1 April 2015), entry for Paul Barber Hounsell. His middle name is spelled in different ways in different documents: Barber, Barbor and Barbour.

<sup>2</sup> "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 1 April 2015), entry for Paul B. Hounsell, Province: The Territories, District: Saskatchewan, District Number: 205, Sub-District: Butler, Sub-District Number: K-1

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. "The District of Saskatchewan was a regional administrative district of Canada's Northwest Territories. It was formed in 1882 was later enlarged then abolished with the creation of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905." "District of Saskatchewan," *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District\\_of\\_Saskatchewan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District_of_Saskatchewan); accessed 6 April 2015)

<sup>4</sup> Family source

<sup>5</sup> "1906 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 24 March 2015), entry for Jas Hounsell, Province: Saskatchewan, District: Humboldt, Sub-District: 26

<sup>6</sup> "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 12 March 2015), entry for Paul Hounsell, Sub District Desc.: Townships 48 to 54, inclusive, ranges 23 and 24, W. 2. M., including the river lots

<sup>7</sup> "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," entry for Paul Barber Hounsell

<sup>8</sup> "65th Battalion (Saskatchewan), CEF," *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/65th\\_Battalion\\_\(Saskatchewan\),\\_CEF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/65th_Battalion_(Saskatchewan),_CEF); accessed 7 April 2015)

<sup>9</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 731

<sup>10</sup> "Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 12 March 2015), entry for Paul Barbor Hounsell, Service number: 473212

<sup>11</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=FINDD&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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G))

<sup>12</sup> "26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force war diaries," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search/images>; accessed 20 April 2015)

<sup>13</sup> "Gosselies Communal Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>; accessed 7 April 2015)