

Sergeant Fred Porter
Regimental number: 23873
Royal Horse Artillery

born: unknown – died: 3 December 1918

Sergeant Fred Porter was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 26 November 1918 with influenza.¹ He survived for a week, but succumbed to the illness and died on 3 December. He was buried the following day at the Gosselies Communal Cemetery (Grave 259), with the chaplain A. D. Reid presiding. The chaplain also notified his wife, Mrs I. M. Porter, who was living then on West Barracks Street in Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, of his death.



F. Porter in Gosselies Communal cemetery
(Source: Author)

Fred enlisted early in the war, arriving in France on 15 August 1914.² He survived over four years of the war, only to die of influenza after the Armistice. At his death, he was serving as a Battery Quartermaster in the 7th Brigade, Ammunition Column of the Royal Horse Artillery.³ The 7th Brigade was part of the 1st Cavalry throughout the war.⁴ It was dissolved shortly after the First World War.

Gosselies Communal Cemetery is located near Hainaut, Belgium.⁵ The ten First World War soldiers buried here all died after the Armistice. At the time that Fred was admitted, the 1st CCCS was very busy, receiving many returning prisoners of war, who were in very poor condition.⁶ However, there is no indication that Fred was a prisoner of war.

Fred was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).⁷

No information has been found for Fred's civilian life before the war, or that of his family after the war.



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

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¹ "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 736

² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for Porter, Fred

³ This information comes from the 1st CCCS journal and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission ("Commonwealth War Graves Commission," (www.cwgc.org: accessed 9 April 2015), entry for Porter, F., Service No: 23873). However, his WW1 Medals Roll Index Card suggests that he served in the 3rd Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery.

⁴ "VII Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery," Wikipedia

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VII_Brigade,_Royal_Horse_Artillery; accessed 18 April 2015)

⁵ "Gosselies Communal Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>; accessed 7 April 2015)

⁶ "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)

⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Porter, Fred