# Private Edward Freeman Hilton
## Regimental number: 2163315
## 3rd Brigade, Canadian Garrison Artillery

**born: 26 September 1898 - died: 10 September 1918**

Private Edward Freeman Hilton was born on 26 September 1898 in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, the son of Alfred Dunstan Snow Hilton and Letitia Penney.[1] Both his parents were born in Nova Scotia – his father, Alfred, on 30 July 1877,[2] the son of Edward and Mary Hilton[3] and his mother, Letitia, on 9 July 1877,[4] probably the daughter of Marsden and Mathilda Penney.[5] His parents were married on 1 June 1898 in the Baptist church in Yarmouth.[6] They had at least eight children: Edward, Dorothy E. (born on 24 January 1901),[7] Mary (born in about 1903),[8] Isabel (born in about 1905),[9] Louie (born in about 1906),[10] Sara (probably also known as Sally) (born in about 1908),[11] Joseph (born in about 1909)[12] and George (born in about 1916).[13]

In 1901, Alfred, Letitia and their first two children were living with Alfred's mother, Mary Hilton in Yarmouth, where Alfred worked as a spinner in a cotton mill. Then, from November 1913 to April 1918, Alfred and Letitia lived in Beverly, Massachuesetts in the United States.[14] It is not known which of the children were living with them, or where Edward was. However, on 20 January 1917, when Edward enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, he and his father were living in Yarmouth.[15]

Edward enlisted in Halifax, Nova Scotia.[16] He indicated that he was born on 21 September 1897, suggesting he was 19 years of age. In fact, he was probably only 18 at the time. He was 5' 5½" tall and had a fair complexion, grey eyes and dark brown hair. He was a fireman, a Methodist and had previously served in the Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery.

He continued to serve in the R.C.G.A. and was probably with the 3rd Brigade.[17] It is not known when he went to France, but he was injured and died in September 1918.[18]

Yarmouth Town and County War Memorial
(Source: www.findagrave.com)

On 10 September 1918, the 3rd Brigade received "harassing fire by 6" Hows."[19] This may have been when Edward was injured, because he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his right leg and a compound fracture on 10 September.[20] He died the same day – just days before his 20th birthday. He was buried the following day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave No. 54, Plot 4, Row H) with the chaplain A. D. Reid presiding.

Duisans' British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.[21] The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.[22] A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September.

Edward is commemorated on a Hilton memorial in the Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery and on the Yarmouth Town and County War memorial.[23]

His father, who was reported to be in Yarmouth after the war, was notified of his death. However, just months before Edward's death, his father had enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force (Regimental number: 3257752).[24] He enlisted in St John, New Brunswick on 9 April 1918, at the age of 40. He was a machine fitter, 5' 8" tall and had a medium complexion, grey eyes and grey and black hair. He was a Baptist. Although he reported that his home was in Yarmouth,[25] he was also shown as an American resident serving in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.[26]

Alfred survived the war. He served initially with the 56th Battalion but, when he returned to Canada, he was with the 1st Canadian Reserve Battalion.[27] He sailed from Southampton, England on the Aquitania and arrived back in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 19 June 1919 and then went on to the United States, where he was also reported to have been living before enlisting.[28]

Hilton Memorial, Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery
(Source: www.findagrave.com)

Two years later, Edward's mother, Letitia, was living in Yarmouth with six of their children and Alfred's mother, Mary.[29] There is no indication of where Alfred was then. However, by 1930, the family is together in Boston, Massachusetts. Alfred and Letitia and three of their children are renting a home at 14 Lesher Street in Boston. Alfred is employed as a machinist. Ten years later, Alfred and Letitia are still in Boston, living at 3840 Washington Street. Alfred, at the age of 61, is still employed, but now as a building superintendent and he is a naturalized American citizen.[30]

In 1946, he made a claim for disability or retirement benefits from the US Social Security.[31] He died the following year.[32] Letitia died in 1971.[33] They are both commemorated on the Hilton family memorial in Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery.[34]

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[1] "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Edward F. Hilton, Province or Territory: Nova Scotia, District: Yarmouth, District Number: 42, Sub-District: Yarmouth (Town/Ville), Sub-District Number: U-1

[2] Ibid.

[3] "1881 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred Hilton, Province: Nova Scotia, District Number: 14, District: Yarmouth, Sub-District Number: C, Subdistrict: Yarmouth, Division: 2

[4] "1901 Census of Canada," entry for Edward F. Hilton

[5] "1881 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Lettiece Penney, Province: Nova Scotia, District Number: 13, District: Shelburne, Subdistrict: Cape Sable Island, Division: 2

[6] "Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics," (https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com/ItemView.aspx?ImageFile=1840-38&Event=marriage&ID=128278; accessed 11 October 2015)
[7] "1901 Census of Canada," entry for Edward F. Hilton
[8] "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Letitia Hilton, Province or Territory: Nova Scotia, District: Yarmouth and Yale, District Number: 64, Sub-District: Yarmouth (Town), Sub-District Number: 47, City, Town or Village: Town of Yarmouth
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred Hilton
[13] Ibid.
[14] "U.S., Records of Aliens Pre-Examined in Canada, 1904-1954," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred Dunstan Snow Hilton
[15] "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," entry for Edward Hilton
[16] Ibid.
[17] "Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Edward Hilton, Service number: 2163315
The chaplains' diary of the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station indicates that he was serving with the 8th Canadian Siege Battalion of the C.G.A. However, all other records reflect that he was with the 3rd Brigade.
[18] "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 IIIC10, volume 4556, Record number 642
[19] "MIKAN 2004793: War diaries - 3rd Brigade, Canadian Garrison Artillery," Library and Archives Canada (www.lac-bac.gc.ca: accessed 11 October 2015)
[20] "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 642
[21] "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
[22] "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=FIND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)
[23] "Edward Freeman Hilton," *Find A Grave* (http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=57564508&ref=acom; accessed 10 October 2015)
[24] "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred Dunstan Snow Hilton
[25] Ibid.
[26] "U.S., Residents Serving in Canadian Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred D. S. Hilton, Serial Number: P3207
[27] "U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1956," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred D S Hilton, Record Type: Manifests, Line Number: 15
[28] "U.S., Records of Aliens Pre-Examined in Canada, 1904-1954," entry for Alfred Dunstan Snow Hilton
[29] "1921 Census of Canada," entry for Letitia Hilton
[30] "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred Hilton
[31] "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred Dunstan Hilton, SSN: 011015087
[32] "Canada, Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Alfred D. Snow Hilton
[33] "Canada, Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 October 2015), entry for Letitia Hilton

[34] Ibid.