

## **Private William Albert Jewitt©**

**Regimental number: 651093**

**1st Canadian Infantry Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment)**

**born: 4 November 1897 – died: 19 October 1918**

William Albert Jewitt was born in Bruce County, Ontario, on 4 November 1897, son of James Jewitt and Catherine (or Katie) Barr.<sup>1</sup> William's mother Catherine was also born in Bruce County, in Kinloss, on 9 March 1878, daughter of yeoman William Barr and Margaret Fraser.<sup>2</sup> His father was born in Kinloss on 13 March 1864, son of Benjamin Jewitt of England.<sup>3</sup>

By the time of the 1901 Census of Kinloss,<sup>4</sup> Catherine (Barr) Jewitt was living with her parents (and five siblings) and her two sons, William Albert and James Henry (born 19 November 1899).<sup>5</sup> Catherine's husband was elsewhere.

Little girls finally arrived. Margaret May Jewitt was born in Bruce County on 1 May 1903.<sup>6</sup> Grace Catherine Jewitt was born in Lucknow, Kinloss Township, Bruce County, 21 August 1906.<sup>7</sup>

Within a year, Catherine (Barr) Jewitt, age 29, mother of two boys and two girls, resident of Havelock Street, Lucknow, was dead from pernicious anemia.<sup>8</sup> By the time of the 1911 Census of Kinloss, the boys have left home, leaving widower James Jewitt to raise his two daughters in his father-in-law's household.<sup>9</sup>

On the final day of 1915, in Lucknow, William Albert Jewitt, farmer, completed attestation papers for the 160th (Bruce) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.<sup>10</sup> Before he was sent overseas, William learned of the death of his sister Grace Catherine, age 9; she died from appendicitis on 29 May 1916.<sup>11</sup>

With hundreds of other soldiers, Private Jewitt left Halifax, Nova Scotia, for Liverpool, England, in late October 1916. The battalion was still at Camp Witley, England, at the end of 1917 when Jewitt earned a good conduct badge. His unit left Witley for France in early March 1918. The soldiers were now part of the 1st Battalion (Western Ontario).<sup>12</sup>

William Albert Jewitt received in action a shell wound to his head. He died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 19 October 1918. He was buried in the Duisans Military Cemetery, Etrun, France.<sup>13</sup>

Duisans Cemetery takes its name from the nearby village of Duisans in the Department of Pas-de-Calais. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, there are now 3,207 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated at the cemetery.

From 17 October through 21 October 1918, the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion pushed the enemy back from the east side of the Canal de la Sensée in France. The battalion moved relatively quickly through the French communities of Brebières, Férin, Dechy, Lewarde, Loffre, Pecquencourt, Rievlay and Marchiennes. It is likely that Private Jewitt was injured somewhere in the area of Loffre, Pecquencourt and Rievlay.<sup>14</sup>

As the armies moved through France, correspondingly, the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station was on the move. When Private Jewitt arrived at the clearing station, it was well established in

Agnez-lès-Duisans. Despite the "great difficulty in getting transport to move necessities forward," the clearing station was relocated 45 kilometres to Auberchicourt by 29 October 1918. In addition to the move, the clearing station treated many of the wounded. In the month of October 1918, 48 Canadian deaths were recorded at the clearing station; 33 Imperial soldiers and two others also died.<sup>15</sup>

Private Jewitt was posthumously awarded the Military Medal on 5 August 1919. Medals and decorations were sent to his brother Harry in 1922. Their father had died of a stroke the previous year (on 25 February 1921 in Kinloss).<sup>16</sup>

Their surviving sister Margaret May married James Kingley Edgar in Wingham, Huron County, Ontario, on 29 September 1926.<sup>17</sup> Mrs. Edgar died in Walkerton, Bruce County, on 31 March 1938.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-1913," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for William Albert Jewitt

<sup>2</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-1913," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for Catherine Barr

<sup>3</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938, 1943, and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for James Jewitt

<sup>4</sup> "1901 Census of Canada," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016, entry for William A Jewitt, Province: Ontario, District: Bruce (west/ouest), District number: 50, Sub-district: Kinloss, Sub-district number: E-2

<sup>5</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-1913," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for James Henry Jewitt

<sup>6</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-1913," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for Margaret May Jewitt

<sup>7</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-1913," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for Grace Catherine Jewitt

<sup>8</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938, 1943, and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for Catharine Jewitt

<sup>9</sup> "1911 Census of Canada," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016, entry for James Jewitt, Province: Ontario, District: Bruce South, District number: 60, Sub-district: 45-Kinloss, Sub-district number: 45

<sup>10</sup> "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/list.aspx>: accessed 8 July 2016) entry for William Albert Jewitt: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 4836 - 35, Item number: 493451, Digitized service file - PDF format: B4836-S035

<sup>11</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938, 1943, and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for Grace Catherine Jewitt

<sup>12</sup> "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/list.aspx>: accessed 8 July 2016) entry for William Albert Jewitt

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> "War diaries - 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://data2.archives.ca/e/e043/e001074618.jpg>: accessed 11 July 2016), Reference: RG9, Militia and Defence, Series III-D-3, Volume/box number: 4913, File number: 352, Copied container number: T-10705

<sup>15</sup> "War diaries - 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/e/e061/e001509500.jpg>: accessed 11 July 2016), Reference: RG9, Militia and Defence, Series III-D-3, Volume/box number: 5032, File number: 838, Copied container number: T-10921

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<sup>16</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938, 1943, and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for James Jewitt

<sup>17</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for Margaret May Jewitt

<sup>18</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938, 1943, and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947," Ancestry ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 8 July 2016), entry for Margaret May Edgar