Captain Shaver Eadie©
Regimental Number: –
8th Canadian Battalion

born: 27 March 1859 – died: 2 March 1916

Major Shaver Eadie,
Royal Winnipeg Rifles, ca. 1886–1890
Source: the University of Winnipeg Archives, Western Canadian Pictorial Index, image no. 17348, Collection: Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum.

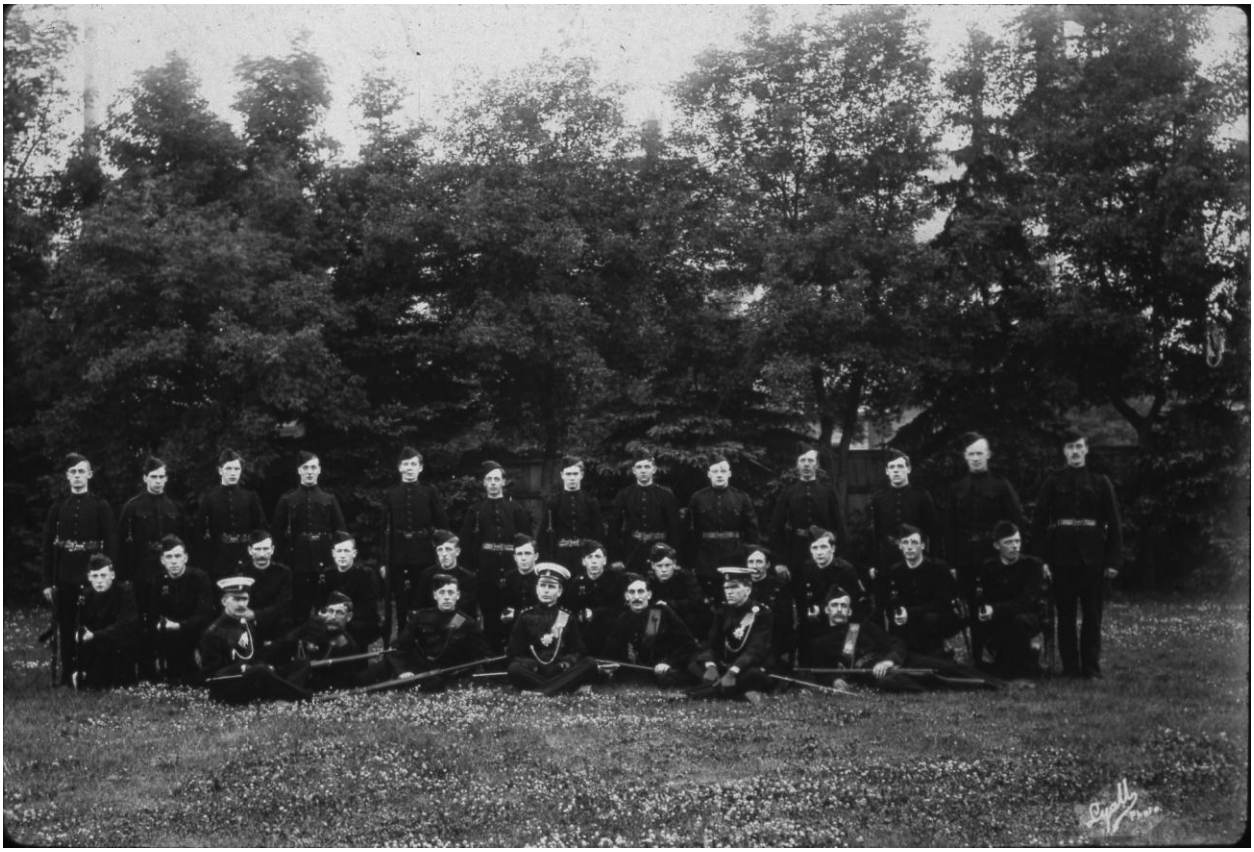
Shaver Eadie was among the first to enlist in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) once war was declared. He listed himself as an "orchardist" from Winnipeg, Manitoba, when he signed on in Valcartier, Quebec, on 22 September 1914.[1] He was recruited to the CEF, as a Captain and joined up with his old battalion, "the Little Black Devils," or more correctly, the 90th Winnipeg Rifles.[2] They formed part of the 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion. Shaver's wife, Kate (b. 1857)[3] likely died in June 1910[4] and his daughter Gertrude (b. 1884)[5] and son Reginald (b. 1890)[6] were now both adults. Perhaps that influenced his decision to enlist. On his attestation papers, Shaver gave his year of birth as 1869, thus stating that he was 10 years younger than his actual age.[7] He was, in fact, 55 years of age when he volunteered.

Shaver had long been associated with the 90th Winnipeg Rifles, having served in the militia for four years, from 1886 to 1890. He held various ranks in the militia ranging from private, to major during that period of time [8] His brother, Lewis Eadie, of Oakland, Manitoba, also served with the 90th Winnipeg Rifles and saw action during the Riel Rebellion.[9, 10]

Captain Eadie was born of Scottish/Irish/German and Loyalist stock and grew up in Oakland Township of Brant County, Ontario, where he met and married Kate Mussen.[11] Shaver was named for his maternal great-great-grandfather, John William Shaver, who had come to what is now Canada from the United States in 1784 and settled in the Ancaster area of Brant County.[12]

Shaver and his family moved to Selkirk County, Manitoba, sometime after the birth of their daughter Gertrude in August of 1884. He worked as a manager for J. Robinson and Company Dry Goods in Winnipeg, where he was employed for 35 years. Before settling in Winnipeg, he was in business in Portage la Prairie.[13]

Shaver was among the first contingent of the CEF to depart for Europe. The 8th Battalion was quickly mobilized in Valcartier, Quebec, and they boarded the SS *Franconia,* arriving in England on



"C" Company, 90th Regiment Winnipeg Rifles. 1910
(L- R): Back Row: Corp. Hill; L. Corp. J. Arklie; Pte. A. Arklie; Pte Kennedy; Pte. Hunt; Pte. Mortley; Corp. Hardy; Corp. Brennan;Pte. Mackley; Pte. Glasspole; Pte. Carson; Pte. C.S. Brown; Pte. Hewittson. **Middle Row:** Pte. Davidson; L. Corp. Jaques; Pte. Gater; Pte. Jackson; L. Corp. Cheswell; Pte. Mclean; Pte. R.H. Brown. **Front Row:** Lieut. S. Eadie; Sergeant H. Kemp; Sergeant Van Raalte; Col. Sergeant W.J. Cappellain; Sergeant W. Lower; Captain A.W. Morley; Lieut. A.M. Black
Source: the University of Winnipeg Archives,
Western Canadian Pictorial Index, image no. 17043, Collection: Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum.

14 October 1914. The ship had a complement of over one thousand soldiers. They trained in England for several months, then proceeded to France on 13 February 1915 as part of the 1st Canadian Division, of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade.[14]
Throughout 1915 and early in 1916, the battalion fought at the second Battle of Ypres and at Gravenstafel, St. Julien and Festubert. They were also engaged at Valenciennes, France, and Flanders, Belgium. Shaver was stationed near Rouen, France, from November 1915 and was in the field most of the time until the end of January 1916, when he left to take two weeks of instruction followed by one week on leave. He returned to the Front on 26 February 2016 and was killed in action just short of one week later.[15]

On Wednesday, 1 March 1916, shelling on the allied trenches began around 9:00 a.m. for about half an hour. "It was quiet for the rest of the morning but shelling began again, in earnest, about 1:30 in the afternoon and continued until 4:00 p.m." Of the 54 shells fired that afternoon only one did any

real damage, and the official war diary for the day indicated that Captain S. Eadie was "wounded very dangerously." He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Station, where he died about 11:45 a.m. on 2 March 1916.[16]

Shaver was awarded the 1914-1918 Star (for service on the establishment of a unit in a Theatre of War), the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre). The medals were sent to his son Reginald.[17]

In October 1916, Shaver's 26-year-old son, Reginald Westbrook Eadie, enlisted in the CEF.[18] Reginald had enlisted in August 1914 and was declared medically unfit at Bulford Manor, Salisbury, Wiltshire, in December 1915, while in training. He was discharged to Canada before Christmas. Reginald had hearing loss from childhood, which became worse while in training. In October 1916, despite being deaf in both ears, Reginald was successful in re-enlisting and was able to follow in his father's footsteps. He, too, enlisted in the 8th Battalion and served in France from November 1917 till the end of the war. He served honourably with his regiment and returned home to Canada on 23 March 1919, three years after his father's death.[19]

Source: "Veteran's Affairs Canada, Book of Remembrance, Page 129" *Veteran's Affairs Canada*, http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/199224?Shaver%20Eadi

Captain Shaver Eadie is buried at the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord, Pas-de-Calais, France, in Plot II. B. 76.[20]

Bailleul is a large town in France, near the Belgian border on the main road from St. Omer to Lille. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 by the 19th Brigade and the 4th Division. It became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1st Canadian, were quartered there to considerable periods. It was a Corps headquarters until July 1917, when it was severely bombed and shelled, and after the Battle of Bailleul (13–15 April 1918) it fell into German hands and was not retaken until 30 August 1918.

The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burial continued until April 1915, and occurred again in September 1918 and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields. Both the Commonwealth plot in the communal cemetery and the extension were designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

The Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension contains 4,403 Commonwealth burials of the First World War; 11 of the graves made in April 1918 were destroyed by shell fire and are represented by special memorials. There are also 17 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War and 154 German burials from both wars.[21]

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[1] "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx: accessed 19 April 2014) entry for Shaver Eadie, Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2797—52, Item number: 373230, Digitized service file: B2797-S052
[2] "Canada, Nominal Rolls and Playlists for the Volunteer Militia, 1857-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 19 April 2014), entries for S Eadie. Unit: 90th Regiment, Winnipeg
[3] "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 April 2014), entry for Shaver Eadie, Province: Manitoba, District: Winnipeg (city/cité), District number: 12, Sub-district: Winnipeg (City/Cité) Ward No. 2, Sub-district number: B-9
[4] "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 August 2016), entry for Kate E. Eadie
[5] "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 19 April 2014), entry for Shaver Eadie
[6] Ibid.
[7] "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx: accessed 19 April 2014) entry for Shaver Eadie
[8] Ibid.
[9] "History of the County of Brant, Oakland Township - Two Hundred Years," *Brant Public Library*, Internet Archive, (www.archive.org/stream/historyofcountyo00reviuoft/historyofcountyo00reviuoft_djvu.txt: accessed 20 April 2014 and 28 June 2016), Online Book, Volume 4, Part II
[10] "Military Medals, Honours and Awards, 1812-1969," *Library and Archives Canada*, entry for Lewis Eadie, North West Canada Medal, RG9-IIA5, Microfilm: C-1863, Volume II, Page 51
[11] "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 19 April 2014), entry for Shaver Eadie, Marriage county or district: Brant
[12] "Shavers of Ancaster Website Home of the Shaver Family Reunion", *Family Website*, (shaversofancaster.com: accessed 19 April 2014) entries for Shaver Eadie
[13] "The Winnipeg Tribune, 9 March 1916, Page 5", *The Winnipeg Tribune*, accessed online 19 April 2014, Obituary - Shaver Eadie, Old Winnipegger, Killed At Front
[14] "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx: accessed 19 April 2014) entry for Shaver Eadie
[15] Ibid.
[16] "War Diaries - 8th Battalion, Canadian Infantry," Library and Archives Canada (http://data4.collectionscanada.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=8th+Battalion&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%3A%2F%2Fwww.collectionscanada.ca%2Farchivianet%2F02015202_e.html&r=0&f=S: accessed 19 April 2014), Reference: RG9, Militia and Defence, Series III-D-3, Volume 4918, Reel T-10710-10711, File: 369, Access code: 90, Page: 4
[17] "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx: accessed 19 April 2014) entry for Shaver Eadie
[18] "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx: accessed 19 April 2014) entry for Reginald Westbrook Eadie
[19] Ibid.
[20] "Canada, CEF Commonwealth War Graves Registers, 1914–1919," *Canadian War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/199224/EADIE,%20S: accessed 19 April 2014), entry for Shaver Eadie
[21] "Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (http://www.cwgc.org; accessed 12 July 2016)