Private John Woods©
Regimental number: 9699
"C" Company, 3rd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force

born: about 1894 – died: 11 January 1919

Private John Woods married Amelia Porter exactly one year before he died. They were married on 10 January 1918 in a Methodist church in Belfast, Ireland.[1] Amelia was born in September 1894, the daughter of Samuel D. Porter, a railway porter, and Jane Hadden.[2]

John's father was Thomas David Woods, born in June 1869 in Portadown, County Armagh in Ireland, the son of John Woods and Cherry Sloan.[3] His mother was probably Margaret (nee Woods),[4] born also in about 1869 in County Armagh.[5] At some point, Thomas, probably with Margaret, went to the United States, because he died in Chicago, Illinois on 28 September 1898 at the age of just 29.[6] He left his wife Margaret and three sons:[7] John (born in about 1894), Wilbert (born in about 1896) and Arnold (born in about 1898).[8]

In 1899, Margaret and her three sons returned to Ireland. They sailed from New York, arriving in Londonderry on 22 April 1899.[9] It is not known whether all three sons stayed in Ireland. Wilbert was apparently a paraplegic and probably lived some time in the United States, because he returned to Ireland from the United States in 1947.[10]

Arnold joined the 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers, probably in 1915, and went to the Front in France on 4 October 1915, either with the Royal Irish Fusiliers or the Army Service Corps.[11] He was apparently wounded at the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 and reportedly died in 1970.[12]

In 1901 and 1911, John was living with his mother on Woodhouse Street in Portadown— in 1901, with his grandfather, John Woods[13] and, in 1911, with his aunt.[14]

John enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was serving with the 3rd Battalion when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.[15] There is no information to indicate why was serving with the CEF rather than an English or Irish regiment.

In January 1919, his battalion was stationed in Lind, Germany.[16] The battalion had had a day off on 1 January—a holiday having been declared to celebrate the new year. The battalion was involved in training activities and, on 3 January, "C" Company went on a routine march. It is not known in how many of these activities John may have participated, because he was admitted to CCCS with influenza on 4 January 1919. He succumbed to the disease a week later. He died on 11 January and was buried two days later in Poppelsdorfer Cemetery (Grave 11, Plot 1, Row B.) in Bonn, with the Canadian chaplain, A. D. Reid, presiding.

January 1919 at No. 1 CCCS was a month of steady medical work, mostly influenza cases, many accompanied by bronchopneumonia.[17] In fact, because of the number of influenza cases, the church parade for the 3rd Battalion was held in the open air on 5 January.[18] Despite the horrific number of soldiers killed in the Great War, the influenza pandemic, which affected the whole world and scourged Europe in 1918–1919, killed more people than the war itself.[19]

His wife, who was living on Charles Street in Portadown, County Armagh, was his next of kin and was notified of his death.

Sometime after the war, John's remains were exhumed and moved to the Brussels Town Cemetery (Grave Reference: X. 1. 9.).[20]

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[1] "Civil Registrations," *Irish Genealogy* (https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp: accessed 5 December 2016), entry for John Woods, Group registration ID: 1791716

[2] "Civil Registrations," *Irish Genealogy* (https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp: accessed 5 December 2016), entry for Amelia Porter, Group registration ID: 10926142

[3] "Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2016), entry for Thomas David Woods, FHL film number: 101185

[4] "U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2016), entry for Thomas David Woods

[5] "1901 Ireland census," *The National Archives of Ireland* (http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/: accessed 5 December 2016), entry for John Woods

[6] "U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2016), entry for Thomas David Woods

[7] Ibid.

[8] "UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 December 2016), entry for Jno Woods, Official number: 76900

[9] Ibid.

[10] "U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2016), entry for Thomas David Woods

[11] "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 December 2016), entry for Arnold Woods

[12] "U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 December 2016), entry for Thomas David Woods

[13] "1901 Ireland census," *The National Archives of Ireland* (http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/: accessed 5 December 2016), entry for John Woods

[14] "1911 Ireland census," *The National Archives of Ireland* (http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/: accessed 5 December 2016), entry for John Woods

[15] "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 20 November 2016), entry for Woods, J.

[16] MIKAN 1883209: War Diaries – 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca: accessed 26 November 2016) File: RG9-III-D-3, Volume/box number: 4915, File number: 358, Copied container number: T-10707

[17] "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/: accessed 17 June 2016)

[18] MIKAN 1883209: War Diaries – 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca: accessed 26 November 2016) File: RG9-III-D-3, Volume/box number: 4915, File number: 358, Copied container number: T-10707

[19] "The Influenza Pandemic of 1918," (https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/: accessed 3 February 2015)

[20] *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2016), entry for Woods, John, Service No: 9969