

Private Edward James Tozer[©]

Regimental number: 17068

7th Battalion (1st British Columbia), Canadian Expeditionary Force

born: 22 November 1878 – died: 17 February 1916

Private Edward James Tozer was born in Lower Broughton, Salford, Lancashire, near Manchester, England, on 22 November 1878.¹ He was the eldest child of Harry Lovelace (born in about 1853 in Exmouth, Devon) and Ann Tozer (born in about the same year in Inverness, Scotland).² Henry and Ann were married in 1877 in Salford.³

It was a second marriage for both. Henry had previously been married to Mary Charlotte Pitts. They married in St. Thomas in Devon in 1872⁴ and had two children: John Henry Lovelace (born in 1873)⁵ and Charles William Lovelace (born in 1875).⁶ Mary Charlotte died in 1876,⁷ leaving Henry with two young children.

Ann (née Jones) had married Frederick John Robinson in Manchester in 1868.⁸ They may have had three children: Joseph (born in 1869),⁹ Alfred (born in 1872)¹⁰ and Frederick (born in 1874).¹¹ No evidence was found of Frederick's death, but Ann remarried in 1877.

After their marriage in 1877, Henry and Ann had eight children: Edward, Alice Mabel (born in 1881),¹² Emily Louisa Lovelace (born in 1883),¹³ Alfred Alexander Lovelace (born in 1884),¹⁴ George Augustus Lovelace (born in 1886),¹⁵ Frank Albert Lovelace (born in 1887),¹⁶ Ethel Maud Lovelace (born in 1889)¹⁷ and Robert Ernest Lovelace (born in 1890).¹⁸

In 1881, Edward and his parents were living at 27 New Street in Exmouth, where Henry was a carpenter and joiner.¹⁹ Henry's sons from his first marriage were living with them, as was Ann's son, Frederick. Ten years later, the growing family was living at 10 Glebe Terrace, Holton Road in Cadoxton, Barry in Glamorgan, Wales.²⁰

In 1901, Edward's family was living in Heavitree, Exmouth,²¹ but by then Edward had enlisted in the Royal Navy. He enlisted on 26 March 1900 and served for nearly for 12 years.²² During his service, his character was described as "very good." When he left the navy, his family was back in Wales, living at 123 Charles Street in Tredegan.²³

At some point soon after he left the navy, Edward immigrated to Canada because he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Valcartier, Quebec, on 18 September 1914 at the age of 35.²⁴ Like his father, he was a carpenter. He was 5'9" tall and had a dark complexion, grey eyes and dark hair.

He was a private in the 7th Battalion and appears to have enlisted in the battalion soon after its formation at Valcartier—a battalion that was composed primarily of recruits from British Columbia.²⁵ The battalion arrived in England on 14 October 1914 and, in early February 1916 the battalion was in the trenches near the French–Belgian border.²⁶

It is not known where or how Edward was injured, but he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died of his wounds on 17 February 1916. He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: Plot II, Row C, Grave 152).²⁷ Bailleul is in France, but near the Belgian border, about 15 kilometres southwest of Ypres.²⁸ It was occupied in

October 1914 and became an important hospital centre not just for No. 1 CCCS but also for No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.

His next of kin was his sister Mabel, who was living with her parents in Tredegar in 1911.²⁹

Edward would have been 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).

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¹ "UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1853–1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2017), entry for Edward James Tozer

² "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2017), entry for Edward Tozer, Registration district: St Thomas, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 2139, Folio: 31, Page: 2

³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 March 2017), entry for Henry Lovelace Tozer, Registration district: Salford, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8d, Page: 14

⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 March 2017), entry for Henry Lovelace Tozer, Registration district: St Thomas, Inferred county: Devon, Volume: 5b, Page: 94

⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, John Henry Lovelace, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 43

⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, Charles William Loveless [sic], Registration district: Cardiff, Volume 11A, Page 349

⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 January 2017), entry for Mary Charlotte Tozer, Registration district: Salford, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8d, Page: 43

⁸ "Manchester, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754–1930 (Cathedral)," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 March 2017), entry for Frederick John Robinson, Archive Roll: 735

⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Robinson, Joseph, Registration district: Chorlton, Volume 08C, Page 603

¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Robinson, Alfred, Registration district: Chorlton, Volume 08C, Page 680

¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Robinson, Frederick, Registration district: Chorlton, Volume 08C, Page 748; "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 March 2017), entry for Frederick Robinson, FHL film number: 2113041

¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, Alice Mabel, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 45

¹³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, Emily Louisa Lovelace, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 42

¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, Alfred Alexander Lovelace, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 44

¹⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, George Augustus Lovelace, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 39

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- ¹⁶ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, Frank Albert Lovelace, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 41
- ¹⁷ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, Ethel Maud Lovelace, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 44. The mother's maiden name for this entry is given as Carter. However, it is almost certainly the record of the birth of Henry Tozer and Ann Robinson's daughter. Carter was the maiden name of Henry's mother, so perhaps he misunderstood the question about the mother's maiden name.
- ¹⁸ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 30 March 2017) entry for Tozer, Robert Ernest Lovelace, Registration district: St Thomas, Volume 05B, Page 33
- ¹⁹ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2017), entry for Edward Tozer
- ²⁰ "1891 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 27 January 2017), entry for Edward Tozer, Registration district: Cardiff, Sub-registration district: St Nicholas, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 4406, Folio: 84, Page Number: 8
- ²¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2017), entry for Henry Tozer, Registration district: St Thomas, Sub-registration district: Heavitree, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 2033, Folio: 73, Page: 6, Household schedule number: 35
- ²² "UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1853-1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 March 2017), entry for Edward James Tozer
- ²³ "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Henry Tozer, Registration district: Bedwellty, Registration district number: 585, Sub-registration district: Tredegar, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 08, Household schedule number: 74, Piece: 31855
- ²⁴ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 February 2017), entry for Edward James Tozer
- ²⁵ "WW1 - 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion (1st British Columbia), Canadian Expeditionary Force," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/5241855>: accessed 1 April 2017)
- ²⁶ "War Diaries - 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>: accessed 1 April 2017), Online MIKAN no. 1883213, File: RG9-III-D-3, Copied container number: T-10709
- ²⁷ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 26 March 2017), entry for Tozer, E.J., Service No: 17068
- ²⁸ "Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 January 2017)
- ²⁹ "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2017), entry for Henry Tozer