

## Private Michael McCarthy<sup>©</sup>

Regimental number: 2266

2nd Battalion, Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)

born: 16 August 1896 - died: 25 June 1916

Private Michael McCarthy was born in Tipperary,<sup>1</sup> the son of Daniel and Catherine McCarthy, of Bansha Road, Tipperary.<sup>2</sup> This was probably the family living at 29 in Clonmel Road in Tipperary in 1911: parents Daniel (born in about 1863) and Catherine (born in about 1869) and sons Daniel (born in about 1890) and Michael (born in about 1896).<sup>3</sup> Michael was, in fact, probably born on 16 August 1896 at Goat Lane in Tipperary.<sup>4</sup>

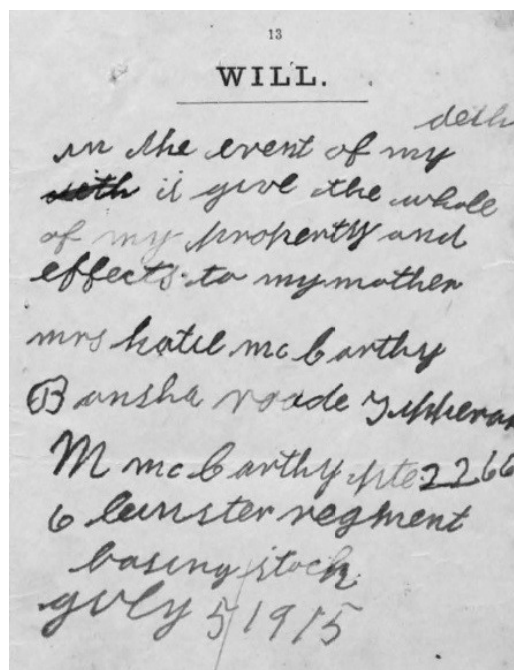
Daniel and Catherine (whose maiden name was also McCarthy) married on 3 May 1886 in the Roman Catholic chapel in Ballylanders. Daniel was a tin smith, as was his father and his father-in-law.<sup>5</sup> The family was Roman Catholic.

Michael enlisted in the 2nd Battalion of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) in Tipperary<sup>6</sup> and went to the Western Front in France on 5 August 1915.<sup>7</sup> Nearly a year later, he was injured and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died of his wounds on 25 June 1916.<sup>8</sup> He was one of 1,986 admitted to No. 1 CCCS in June and one of 86 to die there.<sup>9</sup>

He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: II. E. 154). Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian CCS, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.<sup>10</sup>

His father was notified of his death<sup>11</sup> but his mother received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>12</sup> He had also signed a will on 5 July 1915, before leaving for the Front, leaving everything to his mother.<sup>13</sup> This was an informal will, filled out on a blank page in a small pocket service book that was issued to each soldier, and he completed the will in his own words.

Michael was 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).<sup>14</sup>



### Private McCarthy's informal will

Reproduced with the kind permission of the Director of the National Archives of Ireland. Source: "Soldiers' Wills," *The National Archives of Ireland* (<http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie/>; accessed 7 November 2016) NAI, 2002/119, Soldier's Will, Michael McCarthy, E234109/1 (with permission)

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- <sup>1</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 November 2016), entry for Michael McCarthy
- <sup>2</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 7 November 2016), entry for McCarthy, M., Service No: 2266
- <sup>3</sup> "1911 census," *The National Archives* (<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>: accessed 7 November 2016), entry for Michael McCarthy
- <sup>4</sup> "Civil Records–Births," *Irish Genealogy* (<https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>; accessed 8 November 2016) entry for Michael McCarthy
- <sup>5</sup> "Civil Records–Marriages," *Irish Genealogy* (<https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>: accessed 8 November 2016) entry for Daniel McCarthy
- <sup>6</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 November 2016), entry for Michael McCarthy. The journal of the chaplains at No. 1 CCCS incorrectly indicated that he was with the 3rd Battalion of the Leisters. His regimental number was also recorded incorrectly.
- <sup>7</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 November 2016), entry for Michael McCarthy
- <sup>8</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 7 November 2016), entry for McCarthy, M.
- <sup>9</sup> "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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](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=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G): accessed 7 September 2014)
- <sup>10</sup> "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>: accessed 5 August 2015)
- <sup>11</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 7 December 2016), entry for McCarthy, M.
- <sup>12</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 January 2016), entry for Michael McCarthy
- <sup>13</sup> "Soldiers' Wills," *The National Archives of Ireland* (<http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie/>: accessed 7 November 2016) NAI, 2002/119, Soldier's Will, Michael McCarthy, E234109/1
- <sup>14</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 7 November 2016), entry for Michael McCarthy