

Private Cyril Moore Deuxberry©
Regimental number: 141416
21st Canadian Infantry

born: 5 December 1888 - died: 18 March 1916

Cyril Moore Deuxberry arrived at Quebec City, Canada, in July 1910 aboard the *SS Laurentic*.¹ Two months later, Cyril's father Thomas, a merchant, joined him after a journey on the *SS Megantic*.² The two men did not have long to wait before the rest of the family joined them, Cyril's mother, Annie, and his two siblings, Eric and Noel, left England for Canada on 29 October 1910 on the *SS Victorian* and were shortly reunited with the men.³ What decided the family to leave England at this point is not clear but when they left, two of their sons, John Henry Deuxberry and Charles Archibald Deuxberry appear to have remained behind.⁴ By December 1910, Charles would also emigrate, but he decided not to follow the rest of his family and instead made his home in New Zealand.⁵ John Henry Deuxberry died in Britain in 1914.⁶

Cyril's parents were Thomas Deuxberry and Annie Robinson and had been married on 4 August 1879 in the St. Mark's Broomhill, Sheffield,⁷ before settling down to raise their



Deuxberry family before they left England and before two of the brothers died, Cyril on right

Source: Michael Deuxberry, grandson



Cyril Moore Deuxberry

Source: Michael Deuxberry, grandson

family in the area. Thomas's parents were Peter Deuxberry⁸ and Eleanor Lovatt Jones⁹ and Annie's parents were Moses and Margaret Robinson.¹⁰ At the time of their marriage, Thomas was working as a grocer.¹¹ A decade later he was working as a boot and shoe dealer¹² and, by 1901, as a metal repairer.¹³ The family had moved from Sheffield to London.¹⁴ On the passenger list from Liverpool to Quebec City in 1910, Thomas is listed as a merchant.¹⁵

It appears that Thomas took a number of different jobs to support his family over the years. Thomas and Annie had at least nine children in the course of their marriage. Annie gave birth to three daughters and six sons. None of their daughters survived beyond their first year and one of

their sons died when he was just 26. The remaining six sons survived their infancy. Their children were:

- Margaret Eleanor Deuxberry, b. 1880 - d. 1880, age 0¹⁶
- Lillian Deuxberry, b. 1881 - d. 1882, age 0¹⁷
- Thomas Reginald Deuxberry, b. 1883 - d. 1910, age 26¹⁸
- John Henry Deuxberry, b. 1885 - abt. d. 1914¹⁹
- Kathleen Deuxberry, b. 1886 - d. 1887, age 1²⁰
- Charles Archibald Deuxberry, b. 1888 - d. 1966, age 78²¹
- Cyril Moore Deuxberry, b. 1889 - d. 1916, age 27²²
- Eric Robinson Deuxberry, b. 1892 - abt. d. 1977²³
- Noel Leslie Robinson Deuxberry, b.1902 - abt. d. 1981²⁴

Early in 1910, 26-year-old Thomas Reginald Deuxberry died.²⁵ Perhaps his death led to the family to seek change of direction. Within a year, most of them left England for Canada. Thomas quickly established himself as a carpenter and the family settled in Hamilton, Ontario, where they remained.²⁶ A decade later, in 1921, Thomas was still living on Harrison Avenue, Hamilton, and working at that same job.²⁷

Two years after his arrival in Canada, in July 1912, Cyril married Florence Annie Frances Wood in Wentworth, Ontario.²⁸ Florence had arrived in Canada from England earlier that year

and may have known Cyril from Sheffield or met him shortly after her arrival. Their son Cyril Roy Deuxberry was born two years later.²⁹ By the time Cyril enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), in 1915, Frances and two-year-old son Cyril Roy had already made a visit to England and back to meet her family.³⁰

A passenger list shows Florence Deuxberry and Cyril R. Deuxberry, returning Canadians, arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in February 1915 on the *SS Hesperian*.³¹ Cyril Roy is listed as an infant of eleven months and the passenger list indicates that he was six weeks old when he left Canada for the first time.³² His birth certificate shows that he was born in August 1913.³³ The entry for Florence indicates that she lived in Canada from 1912 to 1914.³⁴

On 28 July 1915 Cyril Moore Deuxberry left his young family to enlist in the 76th Battalion, Canadian Infantry in Hamilton, Ontario.³⁵ He was 25 years old, and his wife was two months pregnant with their second child.³⁶ Cyril's military file describes him as: 5 feet, 4 inches tall, with a



Cyril and Florence's Wedding

Source: Michael Deuxberry, grandson



Cyril is on the left with two compatriots. Taken not long before they were deployed to France. The usual post card that was sent to his parents.

Source: Michael Deuxberry

dark complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair.³⁷ At the time of his enlistment, Cyril was employed as a gardener and had two years of training in the militia with the 41st Highlanders.³⁸

Cyril left Canada for England on the *SS Scandinavian* from Montreal on 1 October 1915.³⁹ On arrival in Britain, nine days later he was transferred to the 39th Reserve Battalion for additional training and, in early November, was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal.⁴⁰ He embarked for France on 17 February 1916 and, shortly thereafter, joined the 21st Battalion, Canadian Infantry, in the field.⁴¹ A few days later, at 5:30 p.m. on 18 March 1916, Cyril died wounds at the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.⁴² He suffered a gunshot wound to his hip and lower abdomen from which he could not survive.⁴³

Cyril was buried in the nearby Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord in Plot II, Row B, Grave 1.⁴⁴ Bailleul Communal Cemetery is located north of Lille on the border between France and Belgium. Cyril's wife Florence was immediately informed⁴⁵ and his son, Cyril Roy Deuxberry, later received his medals and awards, i.e. Scroll and Plaque, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.⁴⁶

Cyril and Florence's second son Russell Hugh Moore Deuxberry, was born on 28 February 1916, less than three weeks after his father's death.⁴⁷

Cyril's Parents and Siblings

Cyril's parents and siblings were devastated by his loss.

Cyril's brother Eric had enlisted in the CEF on 4 November 1915 with the No. 2 Canadian Field Ambulance Corps. He arrived in the field in France, on 17 January 1916, a month before Cyril, and served there and in Belgium and Germany until the end of WWI. He returned to Canada on the *SS Belgic* and disembarked in Halifax on 23 April 1919. He was discharged from the CEF on 25 April 1919.⁴⁸

Cyril's parents and two siblings, Eric and Noel, continued to live in Hamilton, Ontario.⁴⁹ Eric and Noel both married and raised families in that city and are buried in the area. Eric married Sarah Isabella Edge in 1913.⁵⁰ His brother Noel married three times; first, Florence Laidlaw in 1923, next, Annie Elizabeth Haley in 1927 and finally, Anna May Anderson in 1948.⁵¹

Cyril's mother, Annie, died in April 1927 of pneumonia,⁵² and his father, Thomas, also succumbed to pneumonia in 1933.⁵³



Cyril's Regiment - Cyril marked with an X

Source: Michael Deuxberry, grandson

Cyril's brother, Charles Archibald, who emigrated to New Zealand, married Jessie Hilda Exley in 1915,⁵⁴ and is listed on the New Zealand Army Reserve Rolls during WWI, working as a clerk in Northcote, Auckland.⁵⁵ He lived in New Zealand for the rest of his life and worked as an accountant and company manager.⁵⁶ He was elected Mayor of Northcote, New Zealand, from 1925 to 1927.⁵⁷ Charles and Jessie had at least one child.⁵⁸

Florence and Her Sons

Although no passenger list was located, it appears that shortly after Cyril's death, Florence and her two sons returned to live with her family in England. On 17 October 1916, just six months after Cyril was killed, his widow, Florence died in Sheffield, England leaving her two sons in the care of her sisters, Mrs. Boyd and Miss Wood.⁵⁹ Her estate of approximately £10 was bequeathed to her father William Abraham Archibald Wood.⁶⁰

Cyril's military file indicates that by 1921 the two boys were residing with their aunt, Miss. Matilda M. Wood at Crowley House, 175 Uppertorpe, Sheffield, Yorkshire, England.⁶¹ Mrs. Boyd and Miss. Wood also received Cyril's war gratuity of \$116.00.⁶² Only one child, Cyril Roy Deuxberry was named in the CEF file.⁶³

Michael Deuxberry, Cyril's grandson, indicated what subsequently happened to the two boys:

After his death, his wife took the two boys back to the UK, maybe homesick, or just to show the boys to the relatives on her side of the family. She subsequently

died not long after she arrived in the UK and the boys were orphans. For good or bad they were farmed out to different relatives, Roy in Sheffield, where I think she may have come from and my father Russell with a lady who was a headmistress of a school in Bath. There must have been much correspondence from the lot in Canada and the ones in the UK after Cyril's death but all lost I believe.

Cyril Roy Deuxberry, the elder of the two sons, continued to live in England and in 1935 married Elsie R. Forbes.⁶⁴ In 1939, Cyril Roy was working as a provision shop assistant.⁶⁵ The couple do not appear to have had any children. Cyril died in February 1975.⁶⁶

The younger child, Russell had a more complicated existence. The following quote is from Russell's son, Michael, who ultimately settled in Australia.⁶⁷

While WW1 devastated his father's immediate family, WW2 did pretty much the same to Russell. Russell was in the BEF and was lucky to survive the Dunkirk evacuation.

Russell married at least four times, and had at least five children.⁶⁸

His first wife, Pauline Betty Agnes Lake died in 1946⁶⁹ leaving him with two daughters, Anne Morwenna Deuxberry⁷⁰ and Sarah V. Deuxberry.⁷¹

After his return from Dunkirk, Russell worked with the American Red Cross when they were building up their forces in the UK prior to the D-Day landings. It was while he was working there that he met and married his second wife, Sylvia Beatrice Harrison,⁷² ⁷³ They had one child, Michael John Deuxberry and the marriage did not last.⁷⁴

Cyril's grandson, Michael was born in Sheffield, and brought up in Bath, England.⁷⁵ He and his wife Kay left the Britain immediately after their marriage and came to Canada where they remained for a time.⁷⁶ The family later moved to the USA and ultimately settled in Australia where they live today with their children and grandchildren.⁷⁷



Cyril's Gravestone

Source: Michael Deuxberry, grandson



Michael Deuxberry's family and friends taking on Pierre Trudeau in a friendly soccer game near Wakefield circa 1980

Source: Michael Deuxberry, grandson

In 1949 he married for a third time to Beatrice Y. Rodgers.⁷⁸ Russell and Beatrice moved to Northern Ireland where they had two children, Lynne Deuxberry and Hugh Deuxberry. Hugh Deuxberry, became a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy and died age 66, in June 2017 in Dorchester, England.⁷⁹ He had three daughters.⁸⁰

In 1975, Russell married his fourth wife, Kate Muriel Geeson.⁸¹ Russell died in Plymouth in February of 1990 four days before his 74th birthday.⁸²

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Many thanks to Al Lloyd of the 21st Battalion, CEF Website (www.21stbattalion.ca) for directing the author to Charles Archibald's granddaughter, Jane Appleby in England and to Cyril Moore's grandson, Michael Deuxberry in Australia. Jane Appleby connected the author to her cousin Michael. Michael, is the son of Cyril's younger son, Russell H. M. Deuxberry's. He confirmed facts discovered, provided additional information to flesh out this biography and allowed us to use the photographs we included in Lance Corporal Cyril Moore Deuxberry's story. Much thanks to each of them.

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- ⁸¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 5 August 2019), entry for Russel (sic) H. Deuxberry & Kate M. Geeson, Registration Year: 1975, Registration District: Cambridge
- ⁸² "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills & Administrations), 1858-1995," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 5 August 2019), entry for Russel Hugh Deuxberry, Probate Registry: Bristol, England