

Private Walter John Goddard©
Regimental number: 258221
16th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force

born: 8 December 1880–died: 2 October 1918

Private Walter John Goddard had a very short and uneventful military service until 2 October 1918.¹ He was drafted to the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 26 January 1918. A medical examination conducted the previous September had indicated that he was in good physical condition and fit to serve. He was an architect living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, at the time.

Walter had been living in Saskatoon since at least 1912.² He came to Canada in 1910³ and spent some time in Toronto⁴ before moving west. In 1912, he was working as a draughtsman for Robert Thompson.⁵ Robert Milne Thompson was born in Scotland and came to Canada in 1907;⁶ in 1908, he moved to Saskatoon. He had a background and experience in engineering and set himself up in practice in that city. In the spring of 1912, he went into partnership with James Bissett Crockart, architect, also from Scotland, forming the architectural and engineering firm of Thompson and Crockart.⁷ Walter joined them as a draughtsman.

The outbreak of the war meant that the firm was short-lived. Crockart moved to Montreal to enlist in 1914.⁸ Thompson continued to practice in Saskatoon until he enlisted in February 1916.⁹ Even though Thompson was on active service in 1916/17, Walter continued to work under Thompson's name until he was drafted in 1918. Why had he not enlisted when some of his colleagues had?

In the will he signed after joining the CEF, Walter noted specially that money owed to him by Thompson should be included in his assets:

\$100 to \$250 to be paid into my account by Mr. MacDermid of Messrs Ferguson & MacDermid. lawyers, Canadian Bank of Commerce Building Saskatoon, on Lieut. R.M. Thompson 3rd Can Tunnelling Co. BEF [*sic*] France authority.¹⁰

By the time Walter was drafted, he was described as an architect, rooming in the home of William Cuthbert, at 416-27th Street West in Saskatoon. William Cuthbert was the executor of Walter's will. His father, Walter Sr., who was living at 51 Corrine Rd., Tufnell Park in London, England, was his next of kin.

He embarked on the SS *Missanabie* on 24 March 1918, arriving in England on 3 April, and was sent initially to the Canadian military camp at Bramshott. He went to France with the 5th Battalion of the CEF on 19 August 1918. A week later, he transferred to the 16th Battalion.

The day he joined this battalion it moved to Aubigny and then to Beaurains, about 2 kilometres south of Arras in northern France.¹¹ The troops were billeted in the trenches on the outskirts of the village. By late September, they had moved about 20 kilometres southeast to the Cagnicourt area. On 30 September, they moved to Haynecourt, where they relieved the 10th Canadian Infantry Battalion and prepared for an attack the following day.

The 1st Canadian Division opened an artillery barrage at zero hour (5 a.m.). The 16th Battalion's advance proceeded well, with the only opposition coming from enemy machine gun nests. The battalion was able to establish an outpost, but it was heavily attacked and had to withdraw.

A failure of communication meant that the enemy was able to get behind the battalion and its calls for ammunition and reinforcements went unanswered; thus, resources were seriously depleted and the position untenable. The battalion moved and waited until it was relieved by the 28th Canadian Infantry Battalion at 4.30 a.m. on 2 October. In spite of being outnumbered by the enemy, the battalion was able to capture several batteries of field guns and an immense number of machine guns. But the attack had cost the battalion dearly—322 Other Ranks (non-officers) were killed, wounded or missing. Walter was probably one of the 200 wounded.

Walter was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 October 1918 with shrapnel wounds penetrating his abdomen.¹² A casualty clearing station was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not soon die or could not be adequately treated in the CCS were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.¹³

Walter died on 2 October and was buried the following day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 73) with the Canadian chaplain W. Fisher presiding.¹⁴ Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Étrun, near Arras, France. The first burials in the cemetery took place in March 1917.¹⁵ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months. As a result of the serious and urgent nature of the cases admitted to No. 1 CCCS, the death rate was high in October—a total of 83 deaths occurred during the month.¹⁶

A letter was sent to Walter's father in London to notify the family of his death.¹⁷ His father had the following inscription included on his gravestone:

BELOVED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM
HIS MEMORY ENDURETH FOR EVER¹⁸

Walter was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).

His father, Walter Sr., was born in about 1859 in Farnham, Surrey.¹⁹ His mother was the former Annie Elizabeth Simmons, born on 17 March 1864²⁰ in St Pancras, London.²¹ They married at St Thomas Church in Agar Town, in St Pancras, London, on 27 February 1888. Walter was the eldest of their nine children:

- Walter John
- Sybil Maud (born on 15 December 1890)²²
- Reginald John (born on 25 February 1893)²³
- Arthur William Frederick (born on 30 October 1894)²⁴
- Charles Henry (born on 18 October 1898)²⁵
- Hilda May (born on 4 June 1899)²⁶
- Stanley (born on 17 January 1901)²⁷
- Herbert George (born on 11 August 1903)²⁸
- Ralph Bernard (born on 20 July 1908)²⁹

In 1891, the family was living at 69 Malden Road in St Pancras, where Walter Sr. was a grocer. Walter and three of his siblings were all baptized on 9 December 1894 at the Caledonia Road Wesleyan Chapel in Islington.³⁰ Seven years later, Walter Sr. was working as a tram inspector.³¹

As noted above, Walter immigrated to Canada in 1910.³² He may not have been in their home at the time (although he may have been visiting), but his parents included Walter in their response to the 1911 British Census, noting that he was a clerk for an insurance company in Toronto, Canada. The family was living at 26 Torriano Avenue in Kentish Town, where Walter Sr. was a senior inspector for the London County Council Tramways.³³ The family had moved to Torriano Avenue in the early 1900s, but had settled in No. 26 by 1910.³⁴

Walter was the only child to move to Canada—all the others remained in England, many of them in the London area.

- **Sybil**, Walter's eldest sister, was a typist in Lawrence Lane in the City of London in 1911. She did not marry and continued to work as a shorthand typist in London. In the early 1930s, she was living at 29 Lawford Road with her parents³⁵ and, in 1939, she was living on her own at 208 Tufnell Park Road in Tufnell Park, Islington.³⁶ She died in 1977.³⁷
- **Reginald** was a messenger for the India Office in 1911.³⁸ That began a career as a civil servant. He married Doris Meay Snowling on 28 August 1926 at St George's Church in Tufnell Park.³⁹ In 1939, Reginald and Doris were living at 71 Eaton Grove in Wembley, Middlesex, where he was a clerical officer in the civil service and had volunteered to be an Air Raid Precautions warden to enforce the blackout during the Second World War.⁴⁰ Reginald died on 1 June 1966.⁴¹
- In 1911, **Arthur** was a clerk at Cowlin & Sons in Hanover Square, London.⁴² He married Florence Agnes Costin on 18 August 1923 at St George's Church, where a brother and sister also married.⁴³ They were living at 132 Tufnell Park Road in 1929.⁴⁴ Florence was not with Arthur when he was recorded in the 1939 Register as living at 444 Honeypot Lane in Harrow, Middlesex, where he, like his brother Reginald, was a clerical officer in the civil service.⁴⁵ Florence may just have been away, because she and Arthur are both included in the electoral registers at that address in 1939.⁴⁶ Arthur died on 1 June 1962.⁴⁷
- **Charles** was a milk boy living on Torriano Avenue, London, in 1911. It is not certain what happened to Charles. He may have married Florence M. Prentice in 1917⁴⁸ and gone on to live in Clapham Junction in Lambeth.⁴⁹
- **Hilda** married William Charles Horace Davies on 9 September 1922, also at St George's Church, like her brothers.⁵⁰ In 1939, she and William were living at 16 Hadley Road in Mitcham, Surrey.⁵¹ He died at the age of 90 in 1990.⁵²
- **Stanley** married May A. Vickery in 1925⁵³ and, in 1939, they were living at 291 Camden Road in Tufnell Park, Islington, where Stanley was a parcel porter and heavy worker on the London, Midland and Scottish Railway.⁵⁴
- **Herbert** married Eva E. Tunningley in 1928 in St Pancras⁵⁵ and they were both living at 17 Lady Somerset Road in St Pancras in 1929.⁵⁶ By 1939, Herbert was a semi-retired minister of the gospel. He was living in St Pancras but his wife was not with him.⁵⁷ Eva was registered about 60 miles away at Home Farm Yelling, near St Neots, Huntingdonshire. Herbert's mother Annie, who was then a widow and incapacitated, was living with her.⁵⁸
- **Ralph** was living with his parents at 27 Lawford Road in St Pancras in the early 1930s.⁵⁹ In 1939, Ralph was a carpenter and living at 20 Cardoza Road in Islington, in the home of Algie C.

and Lilian L. Halfacre and their daughter, Kathleen V.⁶⁰ A few months later, he married Kathleen.⁶¹ Ralph died in 1987.⁶²

Walter's mother, who was living with her daughter-in-law in 1939, died in 1948 in Islington.⁶³ His father had died in 1936, also in Islington.⁶⁴

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¹ "Personnel Records of the First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>: accessed 6 July 2020), entry for Goddard, Walter John, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3598 – 15, Item number: 416706, Digitized service file - PDF format: B3598-S015. Unless otherwise stated, all information on Walter's military service comes from this source.

² "Henderson's Saskatoon City Directory for 1912," *Peel's Prairie Provinces University of Alberta* (<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca>: accessed 7 July 2020), entry for Goddard, Walter J.

³ "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 July 2020), entry for Walter Goddard, Sub-district: 03H, Sub-district description: (A - I) City of Saskatoon, Enumeration District: 8

⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 July 2020), entry for Walter John Goddard, Registration district: St Pancras, Registration district number: 9, Sub-registration district: East St Pancras, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9, Household schedule number: 02, Piece: 712. Walter was included among the family members even though his occupation was given as "Clerk Fire Insur Compy Toronto Canada."

⁵ "Henderson's Saskatoon City Directory for 1912," *Peel's Prairie Provinces University of Alberta*, entry for Goddard, Walter J.

⁶ *Bibliographic Dictionary of Architects in Canada* (<http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/1359>: accessed 7 July 2020), entry for Thompson, Robert Milne

⁷ *Bibliographic Dictionary of Architects in Canada* (<http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/1359>: accessed 7 July 2020), entry for Crockart, James Bisset

⁸ *Ibid.* Although Crockart's biography indicates that he went to Montreal to enlist to serve in World War I, there is no evidence of his serving in either the Canadian or British Expeditionary Forces.

⁹ *Bibliographic Dictionary of Architects in Canada*, entry for Thompson, Robert Milne; "Personnel Records of the First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>: accessed 7 July 2020), entry for Thompson Robert Milne, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 9655 - 49, Item number: 265311, Digitized service file - PDF format: B9655-S049

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ "War Diaries – 16th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>: accessed 6 July 2020), Reference: RG9-III-D-3, Volume/box number: 4925, File number: 397, Container: T-10720<->T-10721, File Part 2, Item ID number: 2005909

¹² "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2020), entry for Goddard, J.

¹³ "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 2 May 2020)

¹⁴ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa*, entry for Goddard, J.

¹⁵ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)

¹⁶ "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 2015)

¹⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," entry for Goddard, J.

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- ¹⁸ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 6 July 2020), entry for Goddard, Walter John, Service No: 258221
- ¹⁹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 July 2020), entry for Walter J. Goddard, Registration district: St Pancras, Sub-registration district: Camden Town, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 22, Piece: 151, Folio: 43, Page: 9, Household schedule number: 66
- ²⁰ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 14 July 2020), entry for Eva Elizabeth Goddard, Reference: RG101/6360E/007/9, Letter code: TFIE
- ²¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Walter J. Goddard
- ²² "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Sybil M. Goddard, Reference: RG101/0258H/008/18, Letter code: ALAR
- ²³ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Reginald J. Goddard, Schedule number: 144, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: BWFR, Registration district: Kingsbury 130-2
- ²⁴ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Arthur W. F. Goddard, Reference: RG101/0803B/003/33, Letter code: BIIA
- ²⁵ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Charles H. Goddard, Reference: RG101/0024J/008/5, Letter code: ABOK
- ²⁶ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Hilda M. Davies, Schedule number: 167, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: CNCY, Registration district: 31.1
- ²⁷ "1939 Register," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Stanley Goddard, Reference: RG101/0260J/006/19, Letter code: ALBN
- ²⁸ "London, England, Non-conformist Registers, 1694–1931," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Herley [sic] George Goddard
- ²⁹ "London, England, Non-conformist Registers, 1694–1931," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Ralph Bernard Goddard
- ³⁰ "London, England, Non-conformist Registers, 1694–1931," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entries for Walter John Goddard, Sybil Maud Goddard, Reginald John Goddard and Arthur William Frederick Goddard
- ³¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Walter J. Goddard
- ³² "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry*, entry for Walter Goddard
- ³³ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Walter John Goddard
- ³⁴ "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Walter Goddard, Electoral dates: 1901 and 1910
- ³⁵ "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Sybil Maude [sic] Goddard, Electoral date: 1930
- ³⁶ "1939 Register," *Findmypast*, entry for Sybil M. Goddard
- ³⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Sybil Maud Goddard, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: Greater London, Volume: 13, Page: 169
- ³⁸ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Walter John Goddard
- ³⁹ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Reginald John Goddard
- ⁴⁰ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for Reginald J. Goddard
- ⁴¹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Reginald John Goddard
- ⁴² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Walter John Goddard. There was a company called William Cowlin & Son, a house and estate agents and builders and decorators based in Bristol, Gloucestershire.

("William Cowlin & Son Ltd, 1930s advertisement" *flickr* (www.flickr.com)) However, no evidence was found to suggest the firm had an office in Hanover Square, London. This may be a mis-reading of the census image.

⁴³ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1932," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Arthur William Frederick Goddard

⁴⁴ "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Arthur William Goddard, Electoral date: 1929

⁴⁵ "1939 Register," *Findmypast*, entry for Arthur W. F. Goddard

⁴⁶ "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Arthur William Goddard, Electoral date: 1939

⁴⁷ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Arthur William Frederick Goddard

⁴⁸ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Charles H. Goddard, District: Wandsworth, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 1207

⁴⁹ "1939 Register," *Findmypast*, entry for Charles H. Goddard

⁵⁰ "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754–1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Hilda May Goddard

⁵¹ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry*, entry for Hilda M. Davies

⁵² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Hilda May Davies, Registration district: Worthing, Inferred county: West Sussex, Volume: 18, Page: 2562

⁵³ "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 July 2020), entry for Stanley Goddard, District: Islington, County: London, Volume: 1B, Page: 579

⁵⁴ "1939 Register," *Findmypast*, entry for Stanley Goddard

⁵⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 July 2020), entry for Herbert G. Goddard, Registration district: Pancras, Inferred county: Middlesex, Volume: 1b, Page: 334

⁵⁶ "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Herbert George Goddard, Electoral date: 1929

⁵⁷ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Herbert G. Goddard, Schedule number: 105, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: ASSW, Registration district: 9-3

⁵⁸ "1939 Register," *Findmypast*, entry for Eva Elizabeth Goddard

⁵⁹ "London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1965," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Ralph Bernard Goddard, Electoral date: 1920

⁶⁰ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 July 2020), entry for Ralph B. Goddard, Schedule number: 200, Sub-schedule number: 4, Enumeration district: ALPH, Registration district: 10-5

⁶¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 July 2020), entry for Ralph B Goddard, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 685

⁶² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Ralph Bernard Goddard, Registration district: Sudbury, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 10, Page: 2726

⁶³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Annie E. Goddard, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 5c, Page: 998

⁶⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 July 2020), entry for Walter Goddard, Registration district: Islington, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 162