



Arthur Douglas Porter



Beautiful Elgin Church, Ontario, with unusual memorial to all soldiers.

In June 1910, Arthur Porter was one of the many, who boarded a ship in England and emigrated to Canada. At 23, Arthur, born in 1887 in the Brentford area, travelled on the 'Corinthian' from London, via Le Havre to Quebec. He must have been very apprehensive, but full of hope for the opportunity to better himself. He left behind his parents, John and Mary who lived in Garden Cottage, London Road, Brentford, and his five younger siblings.

The 1911 Census of Canada, records that Arthur settled in Yarmouth, Elgin, in the province of Ontario. About five years later, he joined the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. His attestation paper of March 15th 1916 tells us that in the intervening years Arthur had become a farmer and his next of kin was Mary Elizabeth, his wife. Interestingly, Arthur and Mary did not actually marry until three days later on March 18th 1916!

Arthur joined the 4th Battalion Canadian Infantry Division which was formed in Britain in April 1916 and crossed to France in August of that year. Arthur would now have less than two months to live. Although the Battle of the Somme had been raging since July, it wasn't until mid-September that the 4th Battalion were involved in fierce fighting. Arthur would have immediately been faced with knee deep mud and a ferocious enemy. The Canadians captured the village of Courcellette but the Germans fought back – unsuccessfully- resulting in further losses on both sides. It was during this violent battle that Arthur lost his life. His body was never found.

The Canadian War Grave Registers recorded that Arthur became a casualty "*On or since 8-10-16*". The circumstances....."*Previously reported as missing now for official purposes presumed to have died*". The location of his unit at that time was recorded as "*trenches north of Courcellette*".

Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is commemorated at the Vimy Memorial in France and on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial as illustrated below.

It appears that Arthur's wife Mary Elizabeth (nee Locke), never remarried and died in 1981 aged 91. She is buried at the Union United Cemetery in Elgin County, Ontario. He was also remembered on the memorial at All Saints Church, Church Street Isleworth.



Arthur's parents had already lost a younger son, Frederick, near Guillimont, only 8 weeks before.