

1: John Anderson

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: John Anderson

Rank: Sergt Pilot CWGC records him as Sergeant

Battalion / Regiment: 13th Battalion Canadian Infantry

Service Number: 24911

Date of Death: 14 June 1916 Age at Death: 27

Buried / Commemorated at: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Ypres Salient Battlefield, Belgium

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of John and Lucy Anderson. Born at Neston

John ('Jack') Anderson was born on 17 July 1889 in Neston, the second son of John and Lucy Anderson and he was baptised at Neston Parish Church 2 August 1889.

Mariner John Anderson snr (aged 24, of Eldon Place), a son of mariner James Pattullo Anderson of Birkenhead, married Lucy Binner (27, also of Eldon Place and daughter of shipsmith Edward Binner) at St Alban's, Liverpool, on 14 January 1883. They appear to have first lived in Birkenhead before moving to Neston by about 1887. At the time of John jnr's baptism his father gave his occupation as 'fish officer, mercantile marine', but little else is known of him, other than he is listed in Kelly's Directory of Cheshire (1914) as 'Anderson John, master mariner, Mex House, Hinderton Road' and he has not been located in any census returns. The exact location of Mex House is unknown.

In the 1891 census John jnr was recorded as living (aged 1, born Neston) with his mother, Lucy, (36, born Birkenhead) at 2, Kingsdown Street, Tranmere. They were the only two persons recorded in the household.

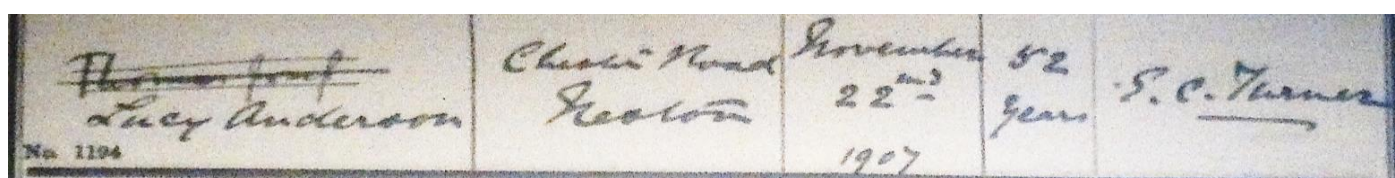
In the 1901 census John Anderson jnr was living with his aunt, Elizabeth Swift, on Neston High Street but his parents have not been located in the census:

		Male	Female		Own account	House
Elizabeth Swift	Head	Widow	46	Grocer & Provision Dealer	own acc.	at home
Richard Binner	Brother	Single	44	unemployed	W	do
Fanny Binner	Sister	"	26	Grocer's assistant	W	do
John Anderson	Nephew	"	11	at school	—	at school
Sarah Oldred	Head	Widow	48	at home	—	at home

1901 census (extract) – Neston High Street

Elizabeth Swift	46	widow, grocer & provision dealer	born Birkenhead
Richard Binner	44	brother, unemployed	born Birkenhead
Fanny Binner	26	sister, grocer's assistant	born Birkenhead
John Anderson	11		born Neston

Lucy Anderson, John's mother, died in November 1907 aged 52 and she was buried at Neston Parish Church on 22 November:



James Pattullo Anderson, John snr's father, died in Birkenhead in mid-1907 aged 76.

John Anderson, John jnr's widowed father, married Caroline Beatrice Jones at Crickhowell in Brecknockshire (Breconshire) in April / June 1909 and in early 1911 a child, Desmond N P Anderson, was born but he died soon afterwards.

At the time of the 1911 census John Anderson jnr was recorded as a joiner living with his step-mother and her sister at Mex House on Hinderton Road. As in previous census returns John's father was not present in the household:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	
1	Caroline Beatrice Anderson	Wife	31	married	1	1	0	1								
2	John Anderson jun	son	21	single					joiner	210	Building	Worker			Crickhowell Brecknockshire	US1
3	Maria Jones	Sister	35	single											Crickhowell Brecknockshire	US1
4	Ada Cottrell	Servant	19	single					General servant (domestic)						Little Neston Brecknockshire	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)			(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)	
<p>I certify that—</p> <p>(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.</p> <p>(2) I have entered the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.</p> <p>(3) After making the necessary enquiries, I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have initialed each so appeared to be erroneous.</p> <p>Initials of Enumerator: <i>OT</i></p>			<p>Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.</p> <p>Rooms: <i>7</i></p> <p>I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>Signature: <i>John Anderson jun</i></p> <p>Printed Address: <i>Mex House Hinderton Rd Neston Cheshire</i></p>	

1911 census (condensed) – Mex House, Hinderton Road, Neston

Caroline Beatrice Anderson	31		born Crickhowell, Brecknockshire
John Anderson	21	step-son, joiner	born Neston
Maria Jones	35		born Crickhowell, Brecknockshire
Ada Cottrell	19	general servant (domestic)	born Little Neston

Caroline and John Anderson (possibly away at sea) had been married for one year and their only child had died. It is clear that John Anderson snr would have been considerably older than Caroline. It seems probable that a second child, Roger P Anderson, was born in late 1912 and that he too died not long afterwards.

It is very probable that John jnr emigrated to Canada, possibly with his two brothers, very shortly after this census ¹ and it is possible that he used one of the many sailings from Liverpool to Quebec. Certainly, he is listed as lodging in Hochelaga Ward in District 172 (Maisonnette) of Montréal in the 1911 Census (which officially began on 1 June 1911). One of nine persons in the household John, 21, gave his occupation as carpenter - and it records that, for 1910, John had been employed for 60 hours per week over the full 52 weeks! The census does not, however, record when he arrived in Canada, or by

¹ Whilst little is known of the family the report of John's death in the *Chester Chronicle* of 15 July 1916 notes that John enlisted in Canada with his younger brother Dick on the outbreak of war. His elder brother, who joined the 24th Battalion Victoria Rifles, is now ill in hospital. John's elder brother, whilst unnamed in the newspaper, was James Pattullo Anderson who was baptised at Neston Parish Church on 9 October 1887. John snr was recorded as a seaman and his abode was given as Birkenhead - the family may have been moving to Neston at about this time. John jnr's younger brother was Richard Anderson who was born in Wirral in mid-1891 although there is no record of his baptism in Neston. John ('Jack') and Richard ('Dick') both joined the 13th Battalion Canadian Infantry. No Canadian army records, or 1911 Canadian census returns, have been located for either James or Richard.

which ship; in May 1911 at least 19 passenger ships arrived in Quebec from Liverpool and no record of John's passage has been found.

At the time of his attestation in 1914 John Anderson had already completed 3 years with the 5th Royal Highlanders (the Black Watch [Royal Highland Regiment] of Canada), a reserve infantry regiment which was founded in 1862. Previously he had served 3 (possibly 4) years with the 1st Cheshire Volunteers. Why he went to Canada is unknown but his Service Records have survived and show that he attested for the Canadian Infantry at Valcartier (now a Canadian Forces Base) located in the municipality of Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier, approximately 25km north of Quebec City on 23 September 1914 when he had recently turned 25. The base was originally erected as a military training camp in August 1914 as part of the mobilisation of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the onset of the war.

We know from his attestation papers that unmarried John was 5ft 6½ inches tall with a dark complexion, black hair and hazel eyes, a 38-inch expanded chest and a scar on the left wrist. His Canadian medical record also states that he weighed 150lb (14 stone 10lb / 68kg), was of good physical development, and was a carpenter by trade. John cited his next of kin as his father, John Anderson, of Hinderton Road, Neston.

Some detail of John's military service and movement is known following his attestation in September 1914 and his formal enlistment on 25 September.

John joined the 13th Battalion Canadian Infantry, 3rd Infantry Brigade, from the 5th Royal Highland Regiment. The 13th Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada), Canadian Expeditionary Force, was formed from volunteers from the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada (The Black Watch), a militia regiment based in Montreal, as well as men from other militia regiments. The battalion was sent to England as part of the First Contingent, the 13th Battalion becoming part of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Canadian Division. John Anderson and the other troops left from Quebec - Valcartier military camp lay within a day's march of the transport ships in Quebec port - in the first week of October 1914; a convoy of 33 troop ships and 17 merchant ships, protected by 7 warships was to take them across the Atlantic to Britain. It seems that John Anderson embarked his ship on 7 October 1914.

Arrangements for the transportation of the First Contingent were started on August 15 when the Minister of Militia (Sir Sam Hughes) held a meeting with the representatives of the larger shipping companies. Ships were needed to carry some 25,000 men across the North Atlantic, sailing about the middle of September. Contracts were signed for 20 ships by September 11. This number was increased to 30 when it was decided to send the entire force that had been assembled at Valcartier. The merchant ships were prepared for their troopship role at Montreal, and as soon as they were ready they proceeded down the river to Quebec to embark their troop troops.

From what I have been able to find out, the embarkation of men, horses, guns, stores and equipment at Quebec was carried out with difficulty. A plan had been drawn up, but it was discarded due to delays in the arrival of the troop ships, changes in the number to be embarked, to say nothing of the interference of the Minister of Militia. As one officer described it, "chaos reigned supreme." I do not think one should be overly critical when it is remembered that an unmilitary nation had raised a force

of nearly 30,000 fighting men in about six weeks, and was sending it overseas. Many lessons were learnt by many people concerned with the movement of fighting men across the sea, and on the whole, they were not forgotten in 1939.

Only three ships were loaded according to the plan drawn up by the Director of Supplies and Transport. Then the Minister interfered, and the plan collapsed.

Embarkation began on Sept. 23, when the mounted units marched to Quebec. The infantry went by rail. The last ship was loaded and sailed at 5 pm Thursday, Oct. 1. In a few cases one unit complete in all respects was on board the same ship. One unit had to disembark due to lack of accommodation; some ships had to load ballast to give them stability, and in the end an extra ship had to be found to embark the men, horses and stores that had been left behind.

The total figures for the First Contingent are well worth remembering:

1,547 officers : 29,070 men : 7,679 horses : 70 guns : 110 motor vehicles : 705 horsed vehicles : 82 bicycles

a most impressive force for any small nation to raise in less than two months. They were all volunteers and worthy representatives of Canada.

[Source: 'Troop Convoy - How Canada Went to War in 1914', in Crowsnest, November 1964]

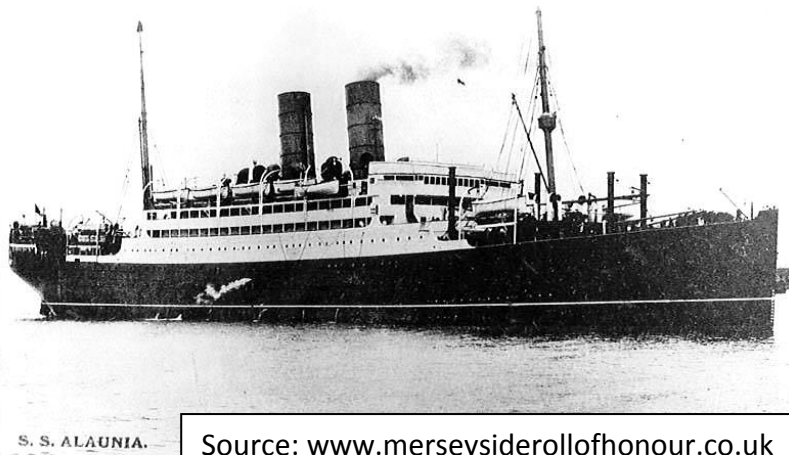
On October 3rd all the ships of the Grand Fleet took up pre-arranged positions designed to secure a close watch over the northern portion of the North Sea, partly with a view to an interception of all traffic, and partly to ensure that no enemy vessel broke out of the North Sea during the ensuing week. The main object was the protection of an important convoy of Canadian troops, which was crossing from Halifax, and which the battle-cruiser Princess Royal and the battleship Majestic had been sent to meet and to protect. The Princess Royal arrived at the rendezvous at 8pm on October 7th, and waited for the convoy, which was two and a half days late.

[Source: The Grand Fleet 1914-1916, Admiral Viscount Jellicoe Scapa, Cassell & Co. Ltd, 1919]

John Anderson was on the SS *Alaunia*, an ocean liner owned by the Cunard Line and built in 1913 at Greenock. *Alaunia* (13,405 tons gross) was launched on 9 June 1913, and made her maiden voyage on 27 December 1913. When World War I began, she was requisitioned as a troopship and was the first Cunard ship to transport Canadian troops. The ship served as a troopship on several routes but, in October 1916 en route to New York, she struck a mine and sank in shallow water off Hastings.

It was planned initially to disembark the troops at Southampton, then an almost

entirely military port. However, by the end of September 1914 U-boats were being sighted in the English Channel, and so Devonport was chosen as the final destination. With little advance notification - it was now 6 October - it was decided to revert to the original plan of using Southampton. It was important that the *Alaunia* and another vessel, the *Montreal*, should arrive first and be unloaded as these



Source: www.merseysiderollofhonour.co.uk

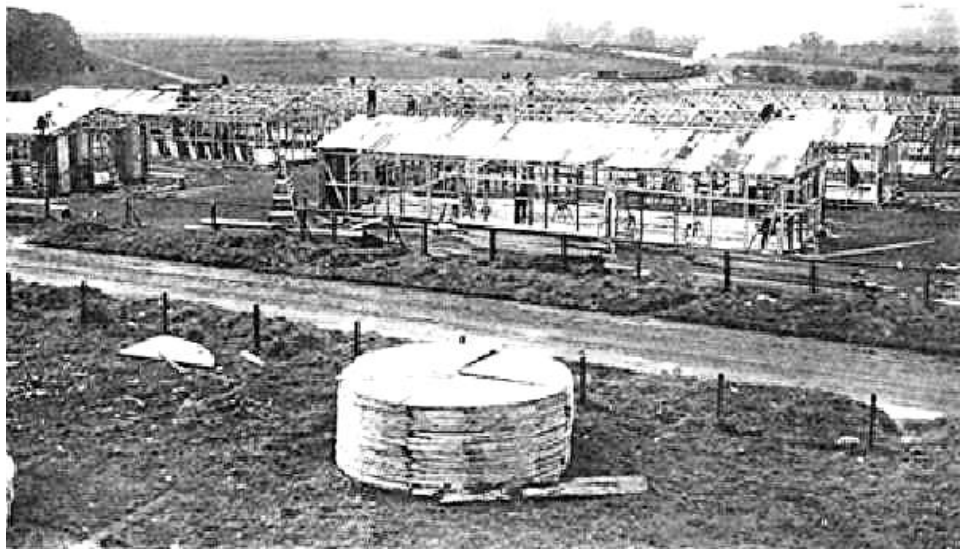
ships carried the camp equipment which would be needed once the troops were

disembarked. These two ships, escorted by an old cruiser (the *Diana*) left the remainder of the convoy 570 miles west of the Scilly Isles at 6.30 pm on 11 October and headed towards Southampton.

As the convoy was rounding the south-west coast of Ireland the plans again changed when a German submarine was sighted, this being attacked by a torpedo boat of the Portsmouth Extended Defence on 13 October to the east of the Isle of Wight. The presence of a submarine so near to Southampton made that port dangerous for the disembarkation and the Admiralty ordered the convoy to take shelter in Plymouth Sound. The same orders were sent to the *Diana* and she, together with the *Alaunia* and *Montreal*, arrived at Devonport at dawn on 14 October with the remainder of the convoy arriving safely later that same day. The intention was for the ships to wait at Devonport until the seas were cleared for them to continue to Southampton but this did not happen and all the troops disembarked at Devonport and the cargo was unloaded there.

It was later believed that the German authorities, aware of the Canadian convoy at an early stage, believed that the troops were already fully battle-trained and that the ships would land and disembark the men at Boulogne between 10 - 12 October. The German submarines were sent out to encounter the vessels as they approached Boulogne, so the convoy, in coming in to Devonport, escaped a very real danger.

The troops and their equipment, having disembarked at Devonport, then moved to training camps on Salisbury Plain. It is recorded that John Anderson was posted to the Lark Hill Camp, a large centre begun in August 1914 and designated as the School of Instruction for Royal Horse and Field Artillery. The troops overwintered on the Plain and, on 18 January 1915, John was appointed as a Lance Corporal.



Lark Hill Camp under construction in 1914
[Source: www.diggerhistory.info]

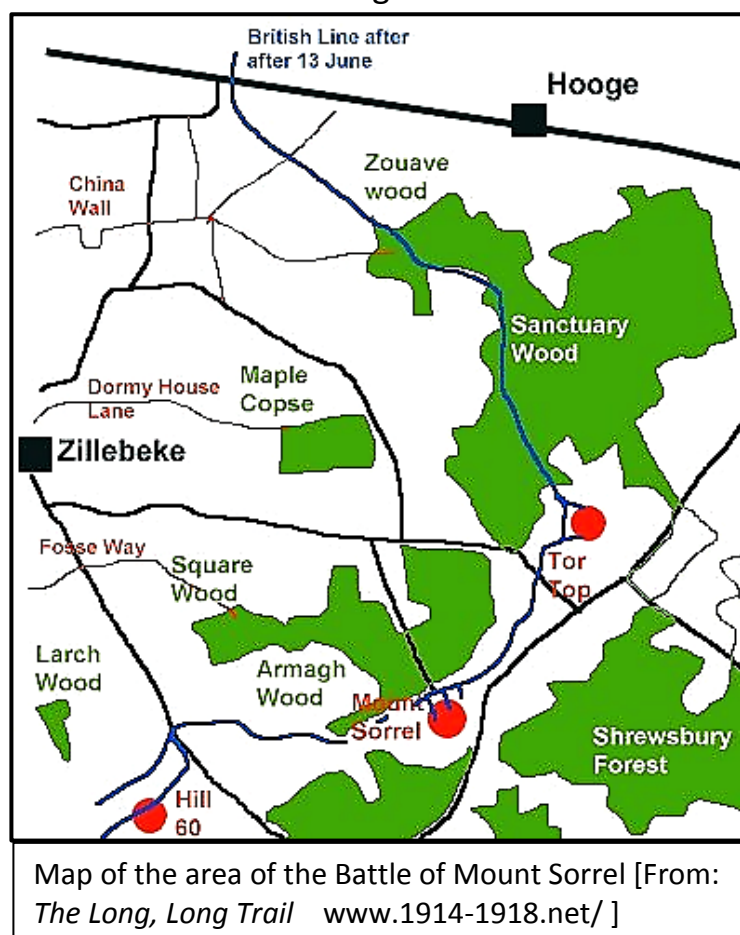
Here, they spent four dismal winter months in the mud, cold and rain. On the sodden fields, in the fog and mud of the battalion lines, in the dripping tents and crowded, reeking huts morale was low and sickness was common. But once the rains stopped and training could begin properly the men of Canada gave promise of the great spirit they possessed. They displayed a spirit of endurance, courage, and willingness that proclaimed them to the world as troops of the finest quality.
[<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/westfront/armies/britishunits/1cdndiv.>]

The Canadian troops began to be moved from their camps on Salisbury Plain to France from early December 1914 and it seems that John Anderson arrived in France on 15 February 1915, the last of the 1st Canadian Division landing there the following day. For reasons which are unknown it appears that the troops landed at St. Nazaire on the north-west coast of France, some 3-day journey from their destination of Steenwerk, twenty miles west of Ypres in Belgian Flanders which lay only 50 miles from the French port of Boulogne. The troops seem to have made this 500-mile journey by railway freight cars.

Once in the field John Anderson received further promotion, firstly as a Lance Sergeant (essentially a corporal acting in the rank of sergeant) on 1 June 1915 and - seemingly on the same date - was promoted to Acting Pioneer Sergeant. On 6 June John was made-up to full Pioneer Sergeant - a regimental appointment rather than an official military rank. Pioneer Sergeants were found only in line infantry regiments and were normally responsible for carpentry and joinery administration, a role fitting John's occupation as a carpenter.

Other than that John Anderson took 9-days leave from 18-28 February 1916, little is specific detail known of his time in France until he was wounded in action in June 1916. However, the book '*The 13th Battalion Royal Highlanders of Canada : 1914 – 1919*' [Edited and compiled by R.C. Fetherstonhaugh, published by The 13th Battalion, Royal Highlanders of Canada, 1925] provides a good account of the battalion's exploits at this time. The following unamended extract from this book details the events of 13-14 June

1916 when the battalion was engaged in a counter-offensive against the German forces holding the wooded uplands of Mount Sorrel and Tor(r) Top near Zillebeke, a short distance to the south-east of Ypres. These were the final stages of The Battle of Mount Sorrel which, in bleak weather conditions, lasted from 2-13 June 1916:



At 12.45 am on June 13th the blackness of the night was split by a great sheet of flame, which belched from the muzzles of hundreds of guns. It was a marvellous sight and the deep-throated roar that went with it was music to the ears of the waiting battalions. Guns of all calibres, from 18-pounders to 12-inch, were employed and the German positions were torn and rent in a manner comparable to that in which the 3rd Division's front had been treated ten days earlier.

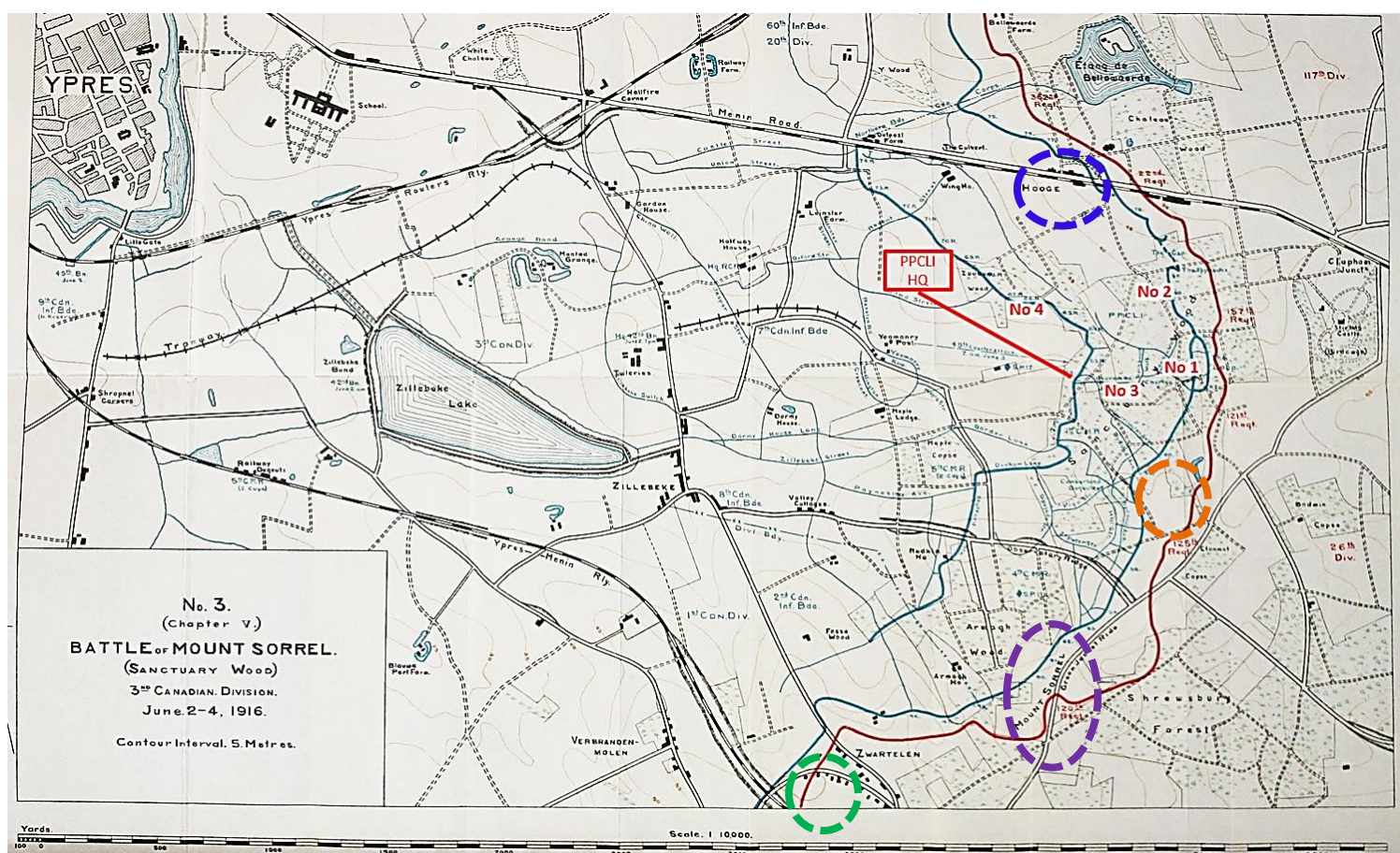
As soon as this tornado was unloosed the German artillery, in response to S.O.S. signals from their infantry, laid down a counter barrage on the

Canadians' front and communication trenches. Accurately placed, this counter barrage battered in some of the parapets and inflicted a number of casualties in the crowded jumping-off trenches. Accordingly the men were not sorry when the hour for the assault arrived and they were ordered forward into the open.

Climbing over the top at the zero hour, 1.30 am, the four waves of the Royal Highlanders began their advance. The condition of the ground was very bad and, in the darkness, the men slipped and slithered into shell holes, often eight or ten feet deep. The weather, too, was most unfavourable and rain fell heavily at intervals, but the men pushed forward most determinedly and maintained their direction surprisingly well. One feature that helped matters was that the preliminary bombardment had effectively cut the enemy wire. Here and there uncut wire was encountered, but not in quantity sufficient seriously to impede the advance.

It was during this action that John Anderson was severely wounded and taken to the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding where he died of shell wounds to his face, chest and arm at 8.0am the following day, 14 June 1916, aged 27.

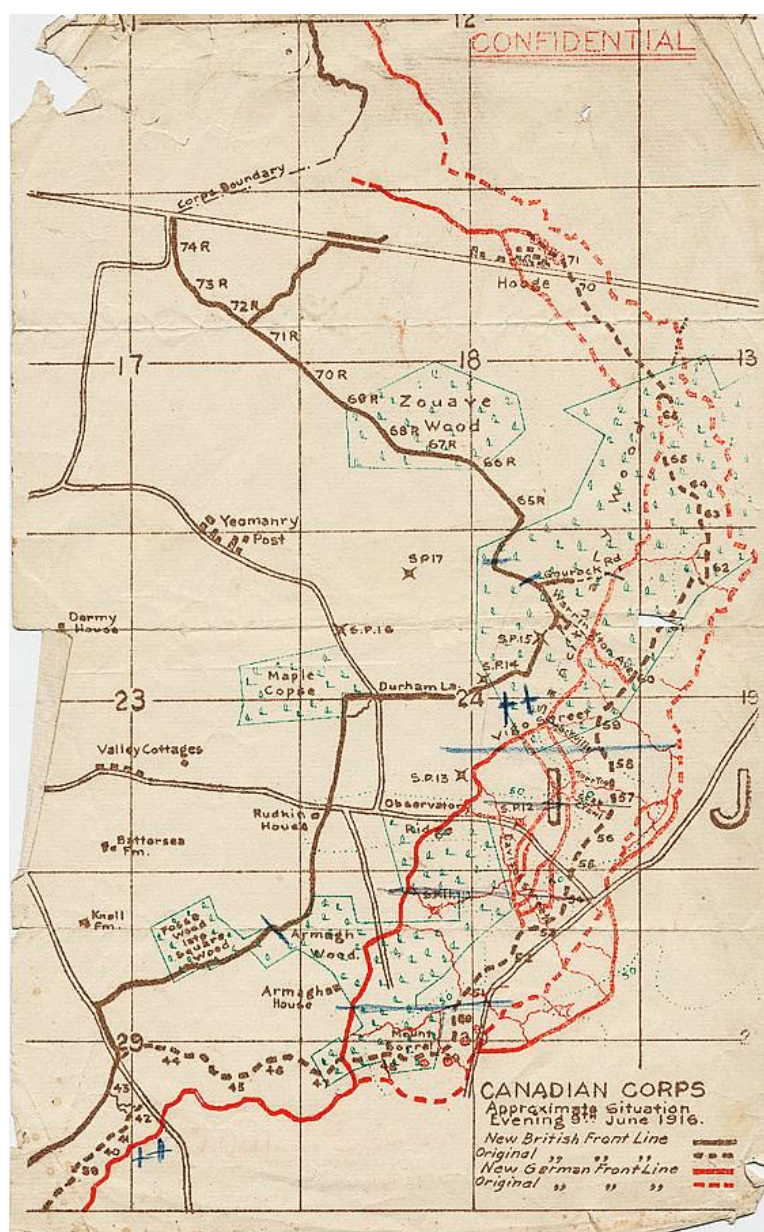
A more detailed map of the area, showing the lines at the commencement of the Mount Sorrel campaign (and about ten days before John Anderson was wounded and subsequently died) relates the area of Mount Sorrel to the strategic upland of Hill 60 and its position to the south-east of Ypres, the Menin Road and Hooze:



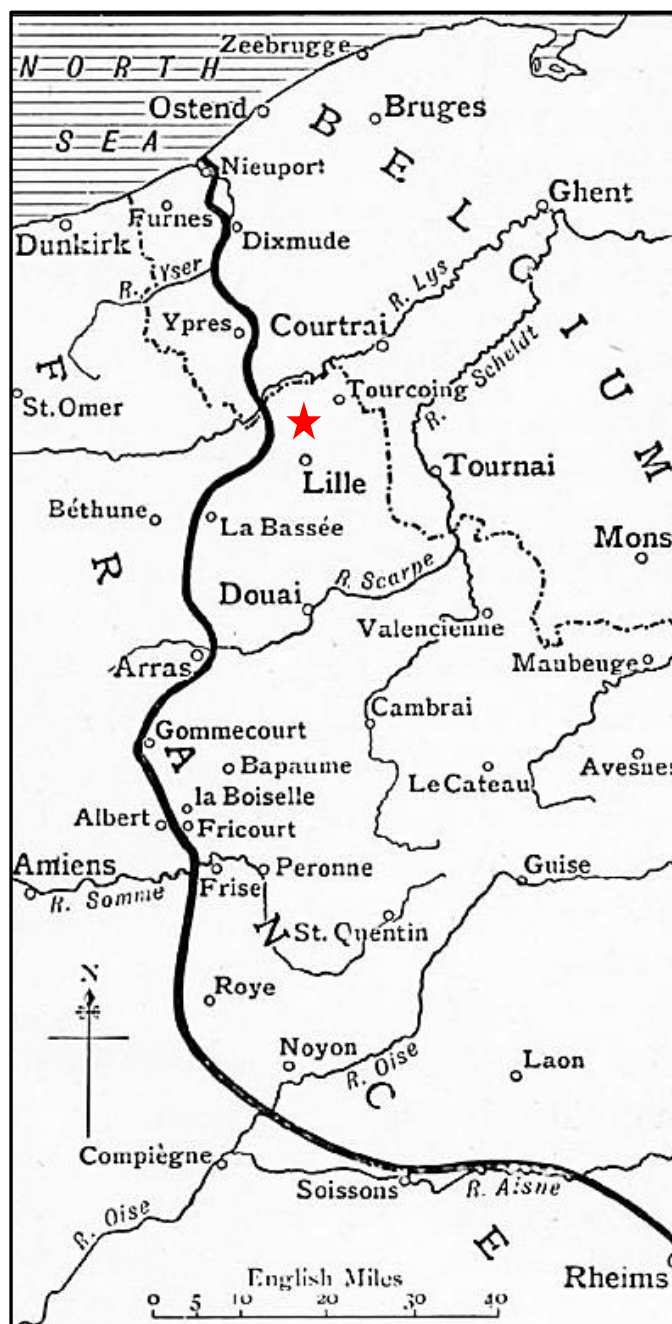
On this map the Allied positions are shown in blue and the German positions in red. Key locations have been outlined:

Mount Sorrel - purple Tor Top - orange Hill 60 - green Hooze - dark blue
On the map the labels in red relate to an earlier campaign. (on the Menin Road)

In an effort to pull British resources from the observed build-up in the Somme, the XIII (Royal Württemberg) Corps and the 117th Infantry Division attacked an arc of high ground positions, defended by the Canadian Corps. The German forces initially captured the heights at Mount Sorrel and Tor Top before entrenching on the far slope of the ridge. Following a number of attacks and counterattacks, two divisions of the Canadian Corps, supported by the 20th Light Division and Second Army siege and howitzer battery groups, recaptured the majority of their former positions....The Canadian Corps remained in the Ypres Salient in a stationary yet aggressive status until the beginning of September when the corps was transferred to the Somme. [Wikipedia]



Battlefield map of positions occupied on 4 June 1916. Mount Sorrel is in the south sector of this map. [Source: Wikipedia]



The location of Mount Sorrel (red asterisk) in relation to the Allied line in June 1916. [Source: <http://www.1914-1918.net/maps.htm>]

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P. S. Regs. Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Confidential

1916.
June Page 18.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks reference Append
H.Qs	June 12/14th.		<p>Weather still stormy and wet.</p> <p>The 15th Battalion was relieved by the 2nd Canadian Battalion on the night of 13th-14th June. We left two M-Guns and crews to hold the position with the 2nd Battalion.</p> <p>During the advance we lost several M-Guns through shell fire, but Mr Hamilton the M-G Officer who was most resourceful, utilized the captured German gun and turned it on them, after he had set it up on our lines.</p> <p>Our casualty list was heavy, and we lost many gallant officers and men, there were 12 officers killed and wounded, and about 202 other ranks, killed, wounded, and missing.</p> <p>Major G.E. McGuire acted most gallantly and was instrumental in organizing the line after the objective had been reached. Mr Hamilton our M-G Officer, not only took charge of the Bombers but also his own M-G crews that were left, and deserves special mention.</p> <p>The Engineers and Pioneers detailed to the 15th, did very excellent work, and remained in the front line till dusk, working and consolidating.</p> <p>We captured quite a few German maps and correspondence which was forwarded to B.H.Q.</p> <p>One thing we learnt, that every Battalion going into action must have an unlimited supply of runners, a great number of runners have never turned up, and our telephone connections were smashed up within five minutes of the commencement of the bombardment. Every man should also carry a shovel, as a large proportion of the shovels carried were killed or wounded before reaching the final objective.</p> <p>The men behaved with great coolness, and the O.C. stated that he was proud of the way they</p>	
	June 13/14th		<p>followed their officers and H.Qs.</p> <p>The Officer Commanding also took the opportunity of stating, in his report of the action, that he wished to express his thanks to the 14th Canadian Battalion for the exceptionally fine stretcher party they sent to our assistance. These men did magnificent work in succouring and getting out our wounded under heavy fire.</p> <p>Capt Ramsey our Medical Officer, had an advanced dressing station at Valley Cottages, and worked incessantly for several days, doing everything possible for the wounded.</p> <p>Lt-Col V.C. Buchanan, D.S.O. regrets to report the loss this tour of 50% of his officers, and very many brave H.Qs and men.</p> <p>On being relieved the Battalion proceeded to Petric Lines, which billets they shared with the 16th Canadian Battalion.</p> <p>CASUALTIES.</p> <p>No. 24705 Pto J. Campbell - Illness No. 47952 E. Urechert - Wounded</p> <p>No. 24911 Sgt J. Anderson - Died of wounds</p>	

Extract from the official War Diary of 13th Bn. Canadian Infantry of 13 / 14 June 1916, recording the death from wounds of Sgt J Anderson and the conditions at that time.

[Source: <http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/warDiaryLac/wdLacP08.asp>]

10115-97, WARD-540-80,300-934-G.A.T.A.S. Ltd. Form C. 1013. Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form-Active Service.
13th CANADIAN BATTALION
Regiment or Corps The Royal Highlanders of Canada

Regimental No. 24911 Rank Pte Name Anderson, John

Enlisted (a) Sept 23/14 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) _____

Date of promotion to } present rank } Date of appointment } to lance rank } Numerical position on } roll of N.C.Os. }

Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

Date	From whom received	Report	Remarks
15/1/15	Promoted Lance Corporal	(Promoted orders)	15/1/15
26/1/15	6213848	to Corporal	26/1/15
28/1/15	O.C. 13th	Promoted Lance Sergeant	28/1/15
29/1/15	O.C. 13th	Appointed (Ad. Signer)	29/1/15
31/1/15	O.C. 13th	Appointed Platoon Sgt	31/1/15
18/2/16	O.C. 13th	Granted 9 days leave	18/2/16
31/3/16		Returned from leave	31/3/16
15/6/16	3rd Can. Col.	Died of Wounds (Sgt. Major, Chest Wound)	15/6/16

FOR LIEUT. A.A.G.

G.M.C. 1906.

Surname *Anderson* Christian Name or Names *J.* Reg. No. *24911*
 Rank *Sgt.* Unit *13th Reg* Co. *Trng* Btry.
 Hospital *13th Can Cas Coy Sui* Date of Admission
 Transferred *13th Can Cas Coy Sui* Hosp.
 Hosp.
 Hosp.
 Hosp.
 Diagnosis *P.S.W. Face & Chest, arm*
 (1) Enter Diagnosis (if changed)
 (2)
 (3)
 Additional Diagnosis: if more than one must be printed

DISPOSITION *Died of Wounds 14.6.16* Date
Ch. 22.6.16 30/386

REMARKS

A.M.D. 2 DEPT.
 Ech. of D.G.M.S. ON M.C. London.



Grave of John Anderson at Lijssehoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium.

NESTON FAMILY'S BEREAVEMENT.
 Much sympathy was felt with Mrs. and Captain Anderson, of Hinderton-road, Neston, when it became known that Captain Anderson's second son, Jack, had been killed in France on the 14th June. He was a Pioneer-sergeant of the Royal Highlanders, having enlisted in Canada with his youngest brother Dick on the outbreak of war. His elder brother, who joined the 24th Battalion Victoria Rifles, is now ill in hospital. Jack, who was of particularly fine physique, and a thorough sportsman, was very well-known and popular in Neston, where he spent his boyhood. The officers and men of his regiment admired and respected him, and he will be sadly missed by all.

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 15 July 1916



Destroyed dugouts and shelters near Mount Sorrel. Prior to the war, most of the terrain here was heavily wooded. [Source: Wikipedia]

NESTONIANS IN CANADA'S ARMY

VISIT THE OLD TOWN.

Great joy has flooded the home of a widowed mother in Raby-road. For weeks, which have crept into months, Mrs. Evans has been lying upon a sick bed, but although an invalid for years, she is buoyed up with a wonderful cheeriness of disposition, and has lately been anticipating the visit of her absent son Edwin in Canada. He came during the week-end, a fine, bronzed and proud member of the Canadian Royal Highlanders, the crack regiment of Canada, formerly attached to the Black Watch as the 5th Battalion. He is a corporal, and with him were other Nestonians, Jack and Dick Anderson, of the same regiment, sons of Captain Anderson. Their appearance drew flattering comments from the townspeople. Corpl. Evans vividly described the magnificent send off from Montreal. The whole city turned out, and the occasion was of a remarkable character. Thirty-three thousand sailed for England in 32 vessels, guarded by seven cruisers. It was originally intended to bring over 25,000, but the remainder strongly objected to being left behind, and were included. They are all desperately anxious to get at grips with the Germans, and their equipment is so complete that they require only food and camp from the English Government.

Cheshire Observer - Saturday 14 November 1914 (extract)

It is not known where, or when, John Anderson's father, John, or step-mother Caroline died and nothing further is known of John jnr's siblings.