

168: Walter Arthur Ward

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Walter Arthur Ward
 Rank: Private
 Battalion / Regiment: 'B' Coy., 24th Bn. Canadian Infantry
 Service Number: 66017 Date of Death: 02 October 1915 Age at Death: ?
 Buried / Commemorated at: La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper), West Flanders, Belgium
 Additional information given by CWGC: The son of George H. and Sarah Ward, of 2422A, St. Urbain St., Montreal. A native of Neston.

Walter Arthur Ward was the second child of tugboat-owner George Henry and Sarah Ward and he was born in Liscard on 15 February 1888.

George Henry Ward married Sarah Webb in Madeley, Shropshire, in late 1884 and their first child, William Henry, was born in late 1885 or early 1886.

By 1891 the family had moved to Wood Park, Little Neston, and they were still there in 1901.

George H. Ward	Head	41	M	Eng. Owner	Shropshire
Sarah	Wife	46	F		Madeley
William H.	Son	5	M		Liscard
Walter A.	Son	3	M		Liscard
George R.	Son	1 month	M		Neston
Arene Cowan	Visitor	50	F	Marine Engineer	Shropshire
John P. Webb	Visitor	50	M	Hospital Manager	Shropshire
Charles Webb	Son	11	M		Liscard
Louisa P. Webb	Son	5	F		Liscard
Ann P. Webb	Son	5	F		Liscard
Bessie Webb	Son	5	F		Liscard

1891 census (extract) – Wood Park, Little Neston

George H. Ward	41	tug owner	born Liverpool
Sarah	46		born Madeley, Shropshire
William H.	5		born Liscard
Walter A.	3		born Liscard
George R.	1 month		born Neston

Six other persons, visitors, were in the household.

Wood Park is the area of Little Neston adjacent to Neston High Road (A540), to the south of the Shrewsbury Arms (currently Hinderton Arms) public House.

Although, at the time of the 1901 census, George and Sarah were still living in Little Neston, Walter A Ward was recorded as 13, born Egremont, boarding with widow Arene Cowan (and her schoolmistress daughters Jane and Louisa) in Parkgate. Walter's brother George (10, born Neston) was also boarding in the same house. It appears

most probable that the two brothers were being schooled in Parkgate. George Robert Ward was also killed in WW1 and he is detailed in the previous entry [[167: George Robert Ward](#)].

Woodpark	1	George Hy Ward	Head	M	50	24 ✓	Steam Tug Charge	Employer	Liverpool	✓
		Sarah	Wife	M	50	24 ✓			Madeley	✓
		Lilla	Serv.	F	29	29 ✓			Redwater	✓
		Ellen	Serv.	F	23	23 ✓			Newtown	✓

1901 census (extract) – Woodpark, Little Neston

George Hy. Ward	50	steam tug owner (barge)	born Liverpool
Sarah	50		born Madeley, Shropshire
Lilla Evans	29	domestic servant	born Redwater, Denbigh
Ellen Owen	23	domestic servant	born Newtown, Montgomery

In this same year, 1901, Walter transferred to Birkenhead School where he remained until 1903.

In 1911 George Henry Ward (60, refrigeration engineer's fitter) and Sarah (60) were living were living at 34 Milton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool; they had been married for 26 years and all three children were still alive although none of the children were with them at the time of the census.

It seems that Walter, and probably his brother George Robert, had moved to Montreal by the time of the 1911 census and he was serving with 'B' Coy., 24th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Victoria Rifles) when he died on 2 October 1915. However, Walter has not been located in the 1911 Canadian census returns. It is recorded that George snr and Sarah Ward followed Walter to Montreal on the SS *Victorian* which arrived in Quebec from Liverpool on 12 July 1912 and it appears that they remained in Canada for the rest of their lives.

Walter attested in Montreal on 20 January 1915 when he gave his date of birth as 15 February 1888 and recorded that his father was living at 2515 Hutchinson Street, Montreal. Walter's occupation was recorded as clerk and it was noted that he had, previously, served with the 7th Battalion Liverpool Regiment for two years.

At his attestation Walter was recorded as being 27 years 0 months old, was 6ft 0½ins tall, of clear complexion and with blue eyes and brown hair. It was noted also that he had a 37-inch expanded chest and with as mole 2 inches below his left groin.

The 24th Battalion (Victoria Rifles), Canadian Expeditionary Force, was an infantry battalion authorized on 7 November 1914 which recruited in Montreal and embarked for Britain on 11 May 1915, arriving in France on 16 September 1915. In Europe the battalion fought as part of the 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division in France and

Flanders until the end of the war. However, it is unlikely that Walter saw much front-line action as he died just two weeks after arriving in France and the Birkenhead Memorial book notes that he was killed whilst on sentry duty at Loos, just west of Lille, and just south of the Belgian border ¹. However, it is much more probable that Walter was with the majority of his battalion, entrenched near to Kemmel, Belgium, when he died.

66017

ATTESTATION PAPER.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? Walter Arthur Ward

2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Seacombe Leekham, England

3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Geo. A. Ward (Father)

4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 2515 Hutchingson St., Montreal

5. What is the date of your birth? 15th Feb; 1888

6. What is your Trade or Calling? Blank

7. Are you married? No

8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes

9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No

10. Have you ever served in any Military Forces? Yes. 7th Liverpool Regt. 2 yrs.

11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes

12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes

(Signature of Man) Ward

(Signature of Witness) W. A. Ward

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, W. A. Ward, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date 20/1/1915 (Signature of Recruit) Ward (Signature of Witness) W. A. Ward

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, W. A. Ward, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date 20/1/1915 (Signature of Recruit) Ward (Signature of Witness) W. A. Ward

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Montreal, this 20 day of January, 1915.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit. (Approving Officer)

M. F. W. 23.
120 M-15-14.
H. Q. 1773-20-21.

B1213

Description of Walter A. Ward on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 27 years..... months.

Height 6 ft. 0 1/2 ins.

Chest measure (Girth when fully expanded) 39 ins.

Range of expansion 4 1/2 ins.

Complexion Clear

Eyes Blue

Hair Brown

Religious denominations: Church of England Presbyterian Wesleyan Baptist or Congregationalist Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated.) Roman Catholic Jewish

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease. Var L Arm
hole 2" below L. groin

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date 19/1/15 1915. (Signature of Medical Officer) W. A. Ward

Place Montreal Medical Officer.

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

.....having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

(Signature of Officer) Date.....1915.

Walter Arthur Ward's Attestation Paper
[http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=300726]

¹ This is not the same place as Loos-en-Gohelle, the village on the northern outskirts of Lens, which gave its name to The Battle of Loos (25 September - 19 October 1915). Loos (Lille) is around 24km north-east of Loos-en-Gohelle. Although The Battle of Loos was being fought when Walter Arthur Ward died, the Canadian Infantry was not involved in this conflict.

Although the Regimental War Diaries covering the first days in October 1915 do not seem to have survived, the diary entries for September give an understanding of the events shortly before Walter's death:

24TH BN. VICTORIA RIFLES CANADIANS

WAR DIARY for month of *September. 1915*

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Please heading not required.)

ORIGINAL *19*
Army Form C. 2118.

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

Original for *War Office*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
<i>East Sandling</i>	<i>Sept 2</i>		<i>Inspection by H.M. the King</i>
	<i>7/4</i>		<i>Refitting equipment, drawing stores, exchanging and converting rifles</i>
	<i>16</i>		<i>Evacuation of hats and embarkation of the Battalion at Falkstone on SS Queen</i>
<i>Boulogne</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>Disembarkation at Boulogne and march to Osterhove rest camp</i>
<i>St Omer</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>At 12.10 Am. March to Port au Bruges embarkation by rail to St Omer where the battalion arrived at 7.00 Am.</i>
<i>Hazebroek</i>			<i>March to Fort Rouge, thence to Hazebroek going into billets there at 7.30 P.M. after making a heavy march of approximately 15 miles this day.</i>
	<i>19</i>		<i>Inspection of the T.D. by Gen. Alderson</i>
	<i>20</i>		<i>Machine Gun Section ordered into the trenches</i>
<i>Bailled</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>Evacuated billets and marched to bivouacs at Bailled</i>
<i>Loerie</i>	<i>22</i>		<i>March to bivouac at Loerie. A Company went into support at Suge Farm where they remained until Sept 28-</i>
	<i>23</i>		<i>Moved into billets in Loerie</i>
	<i>28</i>		<i>Took over trenches of the right Sector relieving the 25th Bn B.C.F.</i>

See Appendix A 1-6

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Please heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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

Appendix A/1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
			<i>Appendix of War Diary of September</i>
			<i>the tour of first line trench duty commencing Sept 28th at 9.00 P.M.</i>
			<i>The 24th Bn relieved the 25th Can Bn at 9 P.M. at WUTSCHAETE and occupied the ROSSIGNOL ESTAMPINET as Bn H.Q. GRS. The relief took place in the rain and the change passed quietly although there were sudden bursts of machine gun fire and rifle fire. Snipers were very active all day of Sept 29th.</i>
<i>29/9</i>			<i>Pte Hue Bride No. 12 Platoon C Coy was the first casualty, wounded in the left arm by a machine gun bullet while bringing in rations. At 7.20 P.M. the enemy sent over several whizz-bangs but with no damage.</i>
			<i>From 9.30 to 10 P.M. they were again active but our supporting artillery opened and quickly quietened them. Our machine guns were not active. Enemy machine guns opened on our Platoon party. Snipers were very active.</i>
			<i>Pte Best climbed to have brought down a sniper at Patch Trench. A working party of the enemy was dispersed by rifle fire from J. 31. One of our working parties was dispersed by enemy rifle fire but they afterwards returned and worked until 7.30 P.M.</i>
<i>30/9</i>			<i>During the day our men broke several German perisopes while the enemy signaled hats or mirrors. The enemy are using green and red flares. They also fired one rocket which burst into green coloured stars. Four of the whizz-bangs failed to explode. Smoke from the enemy's line clearly visible from G. 4 A at 4.30 P.M. The day was spent in making repairs to trenches, parapet and parados. Two flying traverses were erected in H. 4. A dugout built in J. 1 - a dugout built and traverses made in communications trench J. 10 to H. 3 A. Fatigue of two officers and 50 men working on new trench from 8 P.M. to 2.30 A.M. No 65765 Cpl B.M. Peterson dangerously wounded in the head while firing over the parapet in G. 4 A about 11 P.M.</i>

The War Diary kept by the Medical Officer of the 24th Battalion for around the date that Walter died also make interesting reading and Walter's death is recorded on 2 October:

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Loere Belgium	Sep 26		Misty and Showery in am. Aghin visited trenches and was impressed by long and efficient cadry for Stretcher Bearers. He regimental first aid post seems a long way back. It requires 4 hours to make a complete tour of the trenches in occupation by one battalion & return to the ^{regimental} first aid post.	J. G. Jenkins
	Sept		Visited Siege Farm where 4 stretcher bearers are with 72 nd company also one water cart and two of water detail. Enemy shells fall in vicinity of farm in numbers for an hour or two every evening. One has struck the farm buildings, the shells ^{have} been intended for our batteries near by.	J. G. Jenkins
			Remainder of Battalion in billets getting ready to march out to trenches tomorrow night	J. G. Jenkins

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Loere Belgium	26th Sep 1915	6.0pm	Battalion moved out to occupy trenches in vicinity of Kemme. Took over trenches from 95th Battalion Canadian. Battalion Headquarters in the Rossignol Estaminet. Established regimental first aid post in an adjacent house to Headquarters and saw that the emergency first aid post in a field dug out & near by was in condition.	J. G. Jenkins
	27th Sep		Steady rain all evening. No casualties. Completed arrangements of equipment in first aid post. Sent bullet from trenches falling in vicinity of our quarters. Supplies very scarce. First casualty private M. Bride of Sanitary Squad. Wounded in left arm. About 7.30pm several shells from enemy fell in our lines. Our artillery went into action & silenced enemy fire working parties from both sides had to withdraw owing to machine gun and rifle fire bearing on them.	J. G. Jenkins
			At about 11.0pm. Corporal B. W. Paterson #6765 received gas poisoning through cranial wound whilst firing at enemy over parapet. Since deceased. Supplies arrived by transport from Loere during evening. Water supplied in gasline cans and by water cart. High fire parties removing the supplies and water to the trenches.	J. G. Jenkins
			Visited trenches and saw that the Sanitary arrangements were in progress. It was expected and also saw that Stretcher	J. G. Jenkins

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Loere Belgium	Oct 1st		Bearers understood the positions they had to take up. During the completion of a new trench the following casualties occurred:- #65984 Private E. Abbott. Killed. #65285 " R. H. Nicoll. Slight flesh wound in thigh. #65999 " C. W. Price. Perfected lung. Died Oct. 2nd. #416066 " P. MacLennan. Slight wound in shoulder. Returned to duty Oct. 2nd.	J. G. Jenkins
	Oct 2nd		Operations on front quieted down somewhat. Enemy fired from trench mortar. Our artillery replied with 36 rounds and silenced them. An enemy sniper was brought down. Following casualties occurred this day:- #65498 Pte H. Johnson. Slight scalp wound. #66041 " W. H. Ward. Killed.	J. G. Jenkins
	Oct 3rd		Enemy less active but renewed trench mortar & machine gun firing at night. No casualties.	J. G. Jenkins
	Oct 4th		Nothing important happened in trenches this day. Firing from both sides continued of sniping and rifle fire. Battalion relieved at 10.30pm by the 95th Battalion our regular relief unit. We marched to billets in Loere. No casualties.	J. G. Jenkins

**LANCE-CORPORAL W. A. WARD,
24TH VICTORIA RIFLES, CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

The entry for W.A. Ward in the WW1 Memorial Book by Birkenhead School (ISSUU – OBS) [http://issuu.com/birkenheadschool/docs/ww1_memorial_book]

Whilst the CWGC records Walter Ward as being a Private, and having been killed on 2 October 1915, the Memorial Book records him as a Lance Corporal killed on 1 October.



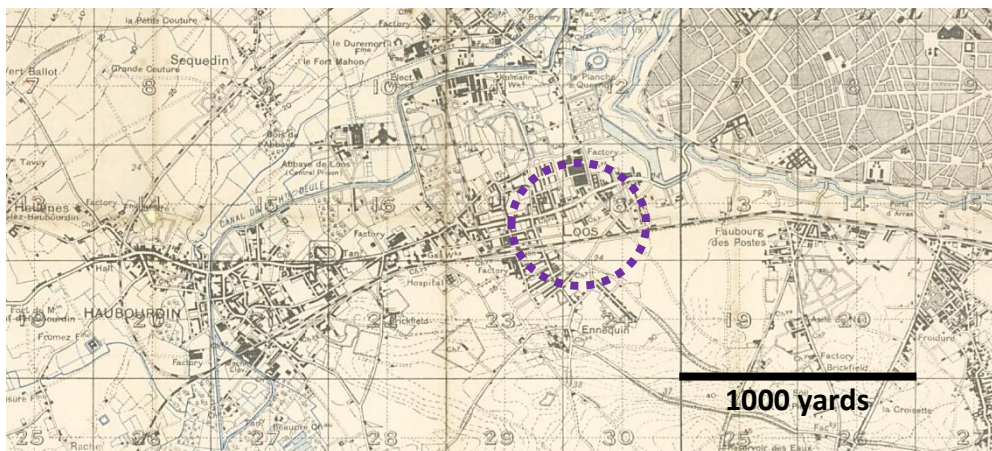
WALTER ARTHUR WARD, second son of George Henry Ward, late of Neston, Cheshire, was born in 1888, and was killed on sentry duty at Loos on October 1, 1915. He entered the School in 1901 and left in 1903.

When war broke out he was in Canada, and soon after he joined the Forces he crossed to France with one of the early Canadian contingents. He was killed as stated above, and his body lies buried at Rossignol.

The Memorial Book also notes that Walter was buried at Rossignol and the Appendix to the War Diary for 28 September 1915 notes that *The 24th Bn. relieved the 25th Can. Bn. at 9.0pm at WYTSCHAETE and occupied the ROSSIGNOL ESTAMINET as Bn. HD. QRS.* An estaminet was a small café that also sold alcohol and, it may be presumed, Rossignol Estaminet was the name of the local establishment in, or very close to, the village of Kemmel. In fact it is understood that the name Rossignol Estaminet was used also for a nearby small cemetery - although it is believed that no soldiers from Canadian units were buried here and that the British soldiers here were reburied in larger cemeteries later.

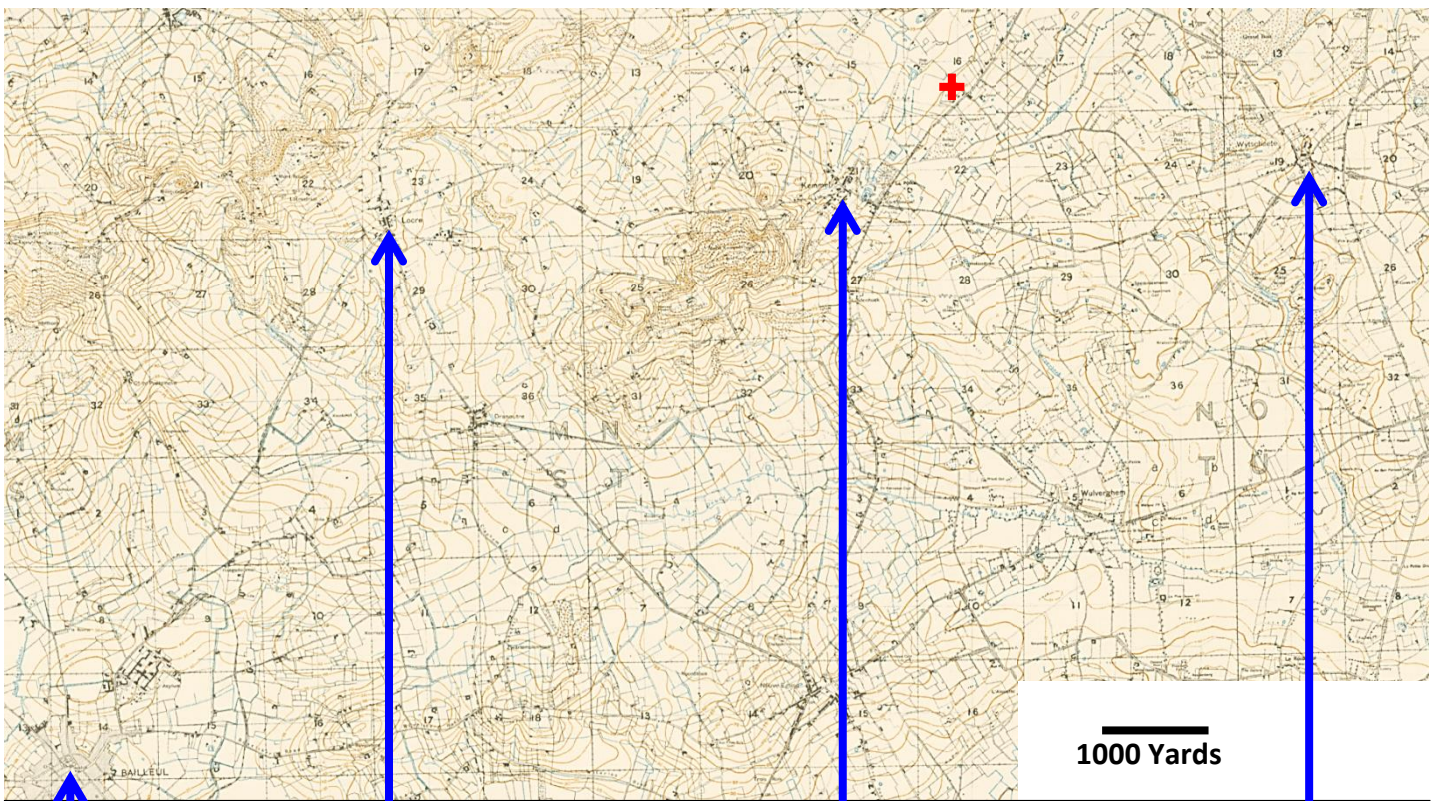
Walter Arthur Ward is buried at La Laiterie Military Cemetery, 7kms south of Ypres and on the road to Kemmel. The cemetery holds 71 men of the Canadian Infantry; one other man (although of the 22nd Battalion) is recorded as being killed on 2 October and none here died on 1 October.

The cemetery, named from a dairy farm, was begun in November 1914 and used until



Army map of the area south and west of Lille (in the NE corner) in January 1916. The settlement of Loos, where it is believed that Walter Arthur Ward was killed, is encircled in purple. [<http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A70152>]

October 1918 by units holding this sector of the front. The different plots were, to a great extent, treated as regimental burial grounds; the majority of the graves in Plots II, III and X, for instance, were those of the 26th, 25th and 24th Canadian Infantry Battalions, respectively. [CWGC]



Bailleul

Loche

Kimmel

Wyttschaete

Based on an army map of 1 October 1917, this shows several of the locations around the France/Belgium border recorded in the 24th Battalion Canadian Infantry War Diary and Appendix for late September 1915. Additionally, the location of La Laiterie Military Cemetery, where Walter Arthur Ward is buried, is indicated by the red cross.

Loos, near Lille, where Walter Arthur Ward may have died, lies around 15 miles south-east of Bailleul.


[<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15&lat=50.7897&lon=2.8418&layers=101464930&b=1>]

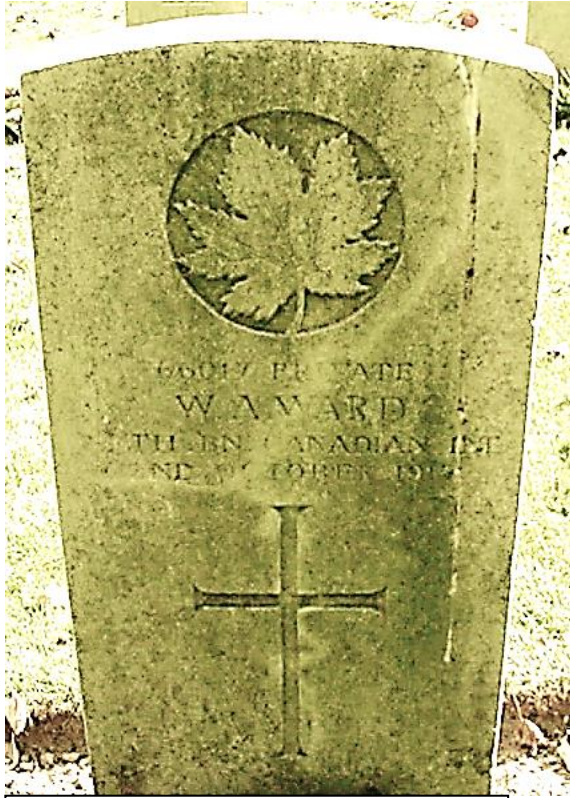


French and 9th Scottish Division POW's being marched under guard through the ruined streets of Lille, after the Battle of Loos on 27 September 1915. Lille was barely twenty kilometres from the fighting and this meant that troops regularly passed through the city on their way to and from the front.

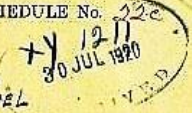
[<https://www.flickr.com/photos/drakegoodman/5469791162>]

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM), page 40
<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books>

Pte. Ward, John J. P.P.C.I.I.
 Major Ward, John Simeon P.P.C.I.I.
 Pte. Ward, Nathan Alexander 30th Bn.
 Pte. Ward, Walter Arthur 24th Bn. 
 Cpl. Warde, Geoffrey Brougham 10th Bn.



Walter Arthur Ward's war grave at La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium
 [Source: CWGC]


Comprehensive Report. Army Form W. 3372.
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.
 D.A.D.G.R. E. SCURH SUB DISTRICT? NO: 5 DISTRICT. REPORT No. 1 SCHEDULE No. 22c
 Serial No: 1252
 COMMUNE: KEMMEL: 

PLACE OF BURIAL LA LAITERIE MILITARY CEMETERY

Map Reference Sheet 26.N.16.d.2.5.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G.R.U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT 10.						
24/ Canadians	85040	BAKER X	Pte F.T.	30.10.15.		ROW "D". 3 ✓
do	85045	WHITFORD	Pte G.	20.10.15.		4 ✓
do	85400	*GOWERSINGH	Pte S.	19.10.15.		5 ✓
do	85487	JAMES	Pte E.A.	13.10.15.	ALL	6 ✓
do	85603	JONES	Pte A.	12.10.15.		7 ✓
do	86215	SMITH	Pte F.J.	13.10.15.	GROSSES	8 ✓
do	85124	BROWN X	Pte W.	10.10.15.		9 ✓
do	85838	ROBERTS	Pte W.C.	8.10.15.		10 ✓
do	85184	CLIFT X	Pte E.A.	30.9.15.		11 ✓
do	86017	WARD	Pte W.A.	1.10.15.	OR	12 ✓
do	85305	EGGLESTONE	Spl A.A.	11.1.16.		13 ✓
		*GOWEE SINGH.			G.R.U'd.	

ENTERED 22/11
 SLIPS CHECKED A.C. 8.10.20


(4-31-6) W2163-2423-100/001 9/10 HWV.P(1024) Form W3873/8

Nothing further is known of the family.