

56: Raymond Frederick Lawton MM

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Raymond P Lawton

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 46th Bn. Canadian Infantry

Service Number: 1009413 Date of Death: 27 September 1918

Age at Death: 35

Buried / Commemorated at: Queant Communal Cemetery British Extension, Queant, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Additional information given by CWGC: Son of Alfred Lawton; husband of the late Jennie Parker, of Broadview, Saskatchewan

Raymond Frederick Lawton (CWGC has his middle initial recorded incorrectly) was born in Parkgate, the second child and second son of ship's carpenter Alfred and Mary Lawton of Parkgate and the younger brother of Alfred Lawton (see entry [55: Alfred Lawton](#)). Raymond was born on 11 June 1884 and baptised at Neston Parish Church on 13 July 1884. His name was, perhaps by accident, the only one not included on the Neston Memorial Service.

Mary Alethea Jones married Alfred Lawton in Neston Parish Church on 23 March 1879, Alfred gave his occupation as ship's carpenter and his address as 'the Collieries' and it was recorded that he was of 'full age'. His father, William Lawton, was also a carpenter. Mary (also of 'full age') recorded that her father, Thomas Jones, was a saddler. In the 1891 census the family (Alfred Lawton snr was not with the family and has not been found elsewhere in the 1891 census) was living with his grandfather, Thomas Jones, in Parkgate:

[illegible]

1891 census (extract) – Parkgate

Thomas Jones	72	retired saddler	born Neston
Mary A. Lawton	36	daughter	born Neston
Lucy Paulington	24	boarder, knitting machinist	born Hodnet, Shropshire
William Jones	26	son, pawnbroker's assistant	born Neston
Sarah Jones	12	grandchild	born Neston
Alfred Lawton	8	grandchild	born Neston
Raymond Lawton	6	grandchild	born Neston
Arthur Lawton	3	grandchild	born Neston
Mary A. Lawton	1	grandchild	born Neston

Alfred Lawton	Head	47	Ships Carpenter		Neston, Cheshire
Mary A. Do	Wife	46			Do
Alfred Do	Son	18	Apprentice to Electrician		Parkgate, Cheshire
Raymond Do	Son	16	Do to Blacksmith		Do
Arthur Do	Son	13			Do
Mary Do	Daughter	11			Do
Albert Do	Son	4			Do

1901 census (extract) – Parkgate

Alfred Lawton	47	ship's carpenter	born Neston
Mary A.	46		born Neston
Alfred	18	apprentice to electrician	born Parkgate
Raymond	16	apprentice to blacksmith	born Parkgate
Arthur	13		born Parkgate
Mary	11		born Parkgate
Albert	4		born Parkgate

Alfred died in France on 4 August 1915 – see entry **55: Alfred Lawton**

The 1901 census records that Raymond was apprenticed to a blacksmith and the family was in their own home in Parkgate. However, for reasons now unknown, the family emigrated to Canada in March 1904 (arriving at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 28 March) to settle in Broadview, Saskatchewan [For details of this emigration and settlement in Canada around this date, see entry **55: Alfred Lawton**]. Although Raymond lived as a farmer and blacksmith south of Broadview, 95 miles east of Regina, he has not been located anywhere in any Canadian census and he was not living with his parents in Broadview at the time of the June 1916 census. This may not be surprising as he enlisted at Broadview late in 1915 by which date he had married (Jennie Parker), had a daughter (named Mary Alethea Lawton after his mother) and been widowed.

Unfortunately, no original data has been found for either Raymond's marriage or the birth of his daughter and death of his wife.

Raymond enlisted at Broadview for the 217th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 15 November 1915 when he gave his age as 27 and his date of birth as 11 June 1886 - this was either an error by the attestation officer or a fabrication by Raymond. He was recorded as being 5ft 4½ins tall, of fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and having a 37-inch expanded chest.

Raymond was killed, dying of wounds he received, on the first day of The Battle of Canal du Nord, the Bourslon Wood Operation. It is unstated as to whether he died in the field or at a Field Ambulance or Casualty Clearing Station.



Interestingly, Raymond died on the same date and in the same conflict as **30: Edwin Evans DCM** although Edwin was serving with the 13th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry.

Crossing the dry section of the Canal du Nord
<http://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/land-battles/arras-and-canal-du-nord-1918/>

Original 217th Overseas Battalion
ATTESTATION PAPER. No. 1009413
 CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. Folio.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
 (ANSWERS).

1. What is your surname? *Lawton*
 1a. What are your Christian names? *Raymond, Frederick*
 1b. What is your present address? *Boulevard Sank*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Parkgate, Cheshire, England*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Robert Lawton, 100 Mary Abbeys Road*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Boulevard Sank*
 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Father, and Daughter*
 5. What is the date of your birth? *11.5 June 1886*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Turner, and Blacksmith*
 7. Are you married? *Widower*
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *Yes*
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *No*
 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*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.
 I, *Raymond F. Lawton*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they 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: *November 15th 1915* *Raymond Frederick Lawton* (Signature of Recruit)
A. S. S. S. S. (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.
 I, *Raymond F. Lawton*, 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: *November 15th 1915* *Raymond Frederick Lawton* (Signature of Recruit)
A. S. S. S. S. (Signature of Witness)

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.
 The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
 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 *Boulevard* this *15th* day of *November* 1915
A. S. S. S. S. (Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 23
 202 34-9-15
 H. Q. 1772-308-841

The Battle of Canal du Nord was part of a general Allied offensive against German positions on the Western Front during The Hundred Days Offensive of World War I. The battle took place in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France, along an incomplete portion of the Canal du Nord and on the outskirts of Cambrai between 27 September and 1 October 1918. To avoid the risk of having extensive German reserves massed against a single Allied attack, the assault along the Canal du Nord was undertaken as part of a number of closely sequenced Allied attacks at separate points along the Western Front. It began one day after the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, one day before an offensive in the Flanders region of Belgium and two days before the Battle of St. Quentin Canal. [Wikipedia]

In the last week of September 1918 four separate major Allied offensives were launched on the Western Front with the aim of finishing the war before the winter. In the second of these attacks the British First and Third Armies were to drive across the northern extension of the Hindenburg Line, towards Cambrai.

The operation was a logical consequence of the Canadian success at Drocourt-Quéant and once again

the Canadian Corps was given a principal role in the renewed offensive. The task of crossing the formidable obstacle of the Canal du Nord required the most careful planning and precisely organised artillery and engineer support underpinned the success of the attack.

At 5.20am, on Friday 27 September, following a night of heavy rain, assault troops of the Canadian 4th and 1st Divisions left their cramped assembly positions and attacked on a narrow front (centred on Sains-lez-Marquion) behind a devastating creeping barrage; Third Army's infantry, immediately to the right (south) advanced simultaneously. With dense clouds of smoke blowing towards the enemy lines the leading Canadian assault troops, assisted by tanks, quickly crossed the canal; Royal Engineers immediately began bridging operations to speed troops, guns and supplies over the captured barrier for the next forward moves; the Marquion Line was passed later that morning and following much fierce fighting, the high ground of Bourlon Wood was in Canadian hands by nightfall; good progress was also made by Third Army. Attacks were renewed next day; though Canadian progress slowed, Third Army forces captured Noyelles, Marcoing, and Gouzeaucourt, and seriously threatened Cambrai.

In two days an advance of six miles was made on a twelve mile front; 10,000 enemy prisoners and 200 guns were taken. This spectacular success represented a vital preliminary to Fourth Army's attack on the Hindenburg Line scheduled for 29 September.

[CWGC Western Front 1918 : Advance to Victory <http://www.cwgc.org/victory1918/>]

"When the attack was launched, the Brigade was already tired after holding the line for several days... harassed by enemy fire, gas, and aeroplane bombing. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the spirit of all ranks ensured success. But for this spirit, the success which ultimately attended our efforts would have been impossible."

[Major J.A.G. White, M.-G. A/Brigade-Major, October 1918, Headquarters, 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade. RG 9, series III-D-3, vol. 4891, folio 1709]

The battle towards Cambrai dealt a mortal blow to a weakened, but resistant, enemy in the course of the last 100 days of the Great War. The operation began on September 27, 1918, with a hair-raising rush across a dangerously narrow canal passage. It continued with harrowing counterattacks coming from enemy troops concealed in woods, firing from bridgeheads, and lurking around the corners of myriad small village roads. It ended in triumph on October 11, when the Canadians, exhausted after days of unrelenting fighting, finally drove the Germans out of their most important remaining distribution centre, Cambrai. Historians see this triumph as the highly professional execution of a daring and inventive strategy. For many of the soldiers, however, success was the result of a great esprit de corps, of great spirit.

5:20 a.m. (zero hour) on September 27. An artillery barrage explodes over enemy positions and the 1st Division begins to move swiftly. Crossing the dry bed of the Canal-du-Nord with success as dawn breaks, the Canadians rapidly secure the Green Line. Passing through their ranks, the 4th Division gains entry into the southern part of Bourslon Village around 9:45 a.m., but not without heavy casualties. By 2:00 p.m., they pass the Blue Line and attain the objective of capturing Bourslon Wood (Blue Line). Pushing on, by the end of the afternoon, while the 15th Infantry Brigade stands firm at the Blue Line, brigades from the 1st and 4th Canadian Division, plus the British 11th Division, clear the enemy's Marcoing trench system. Victory is assured by 8:00 p.m. as the last pocket of enemy resistance is overcome.

[Library and Archives Canada www.collectionscanada.gc.ca]

Raymond fought with the 46th Battalion (South Saskatchewan) Canadian Infantry, a unit which was authorised on 7 November 1914 and embarked for Britain on 23 October 1915. On 11 August 1916 it disembarked in France, where it fought with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division in France and Flanders until the end of the war.

Although CWAG reports Raymond's age as 35, he was probably 34. He was also awarded the Military Medal posthumously on 11 February 1919 although no details of the action for which this was awarded are known.

The War Diaries of the 46th Battalion Canadian Infantry for the time before and at the time of Raymond's death make interesting reading:

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.				Army Form C. 2111
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.				
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks reference Appendix
	23-9-18	11pm.	Specialist training was continued to-day, and some company training. At dusk companies carried out wire cutting in their present areas. During this afternoon some B.H.Q. personnel proceeded to forward area to reconnoitre to forward area and see accommodation for the Battalion. Lieut. Bloagett was attached to the Heavy Artillery to-day to observe shoots on belts of enemy wire through which the Unit will pass during a proposed operation. Two reinforcements arrived to-day.	JMS
	24-9-18.	11pm.	Specialist training was continued to-day, and the Companies practised wire cutting. 1 O.R. Reinforcement arrived from C.O.R.C.	JMS
CHATELAIN " 57e. NE. " 43e. 200.	25-9-18.	11pm.	The day was spent in preparation for relief of units of the 2nd Canadian Division tonight. (O.O. No. 172 Appendix No. 25.) was carried into effect. Relief was very difficult owing to our taking over from two battalions and the area was congested with troops. Relief was complete by 3.30 a.m. and Appendix 26 is disposition report on morning of 26th.	APP 25 APP 26
	26-9-18.	11pm.	Enemy artillery was very active during the day and there was considerable gas shelling. At dusk tapes were laid for assembly for proposed operation and assembly was carried out successfully despite the fact that our forward posts had to be withdrawn so as to be out of the barrage line. It was impossible for our post at E.S. a. 60.40 to be withdrawn owing to the enemy placing a M.G. post in this vicinity. This post in charge of Sergt. J. E. Sturley had consequently to remain in this advanced position during our barrage. This was done and great credit is due to this M.G.O. and his men who rejoined their Company on the way over at 5.20 a.m. on 27th. Two O.R. Reinforcements arrived to-day.	JMS
	27-9-18	11pm.	Operations as outlined in Appendix No. 27 were carried out to-day, and map attached to above. Appendix shows the Battalion jumping off position and objective. Zero hour was 5.20 a.m. and the barrage was heavy. Enemy retaliation was fairly strong and his Machine Guns active. Opposition was encountered in the vicinity of LOCK No. 4. and the system of trenches in this vicinity being strongly held. Our objective was reached about 6.20 a.m. and the 50th Battalion went through to their objective. B.H.Q. was established on Battalion objective at E.S. a. 80.30 at 11 a.m. The C.O. was called to Brigade twice during the afternoon and evening, and on his return further operations were discussed and outlined to O.C. Companies. At 10.30 p.m. verbal instructions for operation outlined in Appendix No. 28 and map attached were given by the C.O. and everything got in readiness for a start early in the morning. Two reinforcements arrived at the Battalion base to-day.	APP 27 APP 28

46th BATTALION SASKATCHEWAN REGIMENT.

Ref: Sheets 51b.S.E.)
57c.N.E.) 1/20000. *Appendix 25*

1. The 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade will relieve elements of the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade in the linemight of 25/26-29-18. The 46th Battalion will relieve elements of 25th Battalion and 26th Battalion.
2. Disposition of Battalion will be as follows:-
"C" Company, Right Front Company.
"D" Company, Left Front Company.
"A" Company, Right Support Company.
"B" Company, Left Support Company.
3. Companies will move to the relief in the following order:- "C" "D" "A" "B" Headquarters, passing starting point (Road right of B.H.Q.) at 7.00 pm. Platoons to move at 200 yards interval. Details of route to be taken will be notified when received. *Company column will not pass road in D. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 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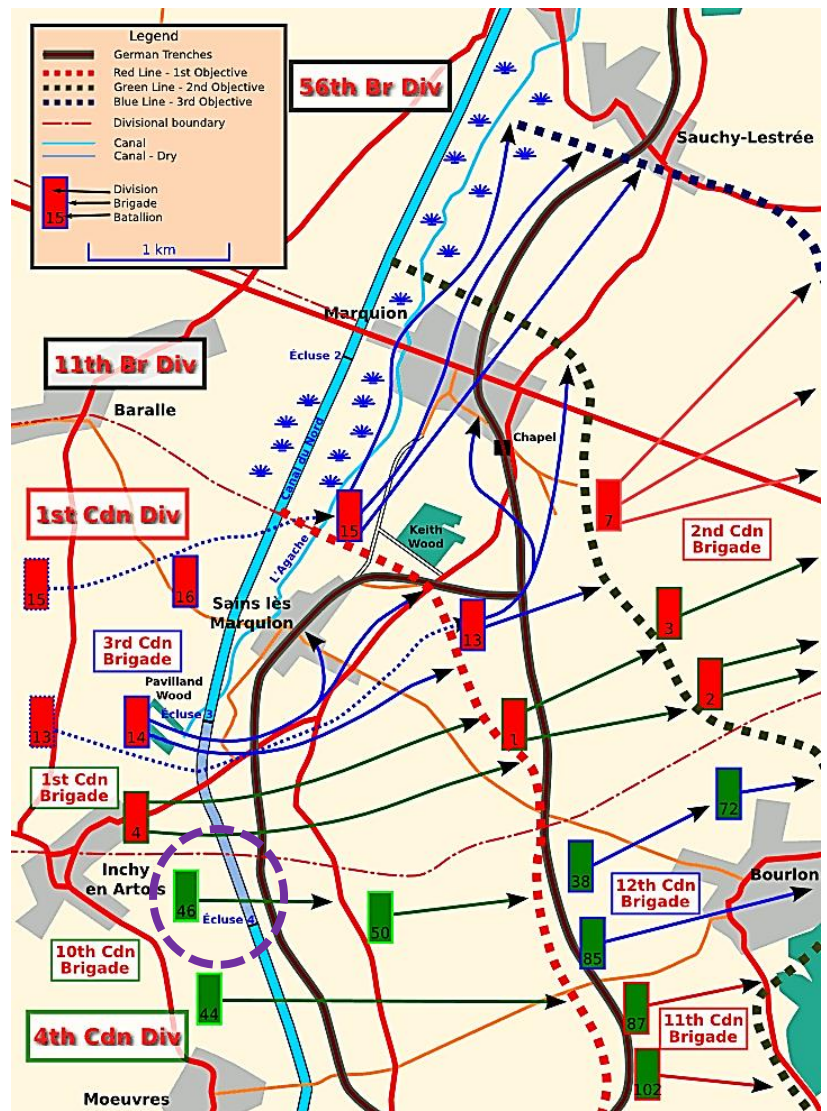
10TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE - ORDER NO. 180.

Reference - Barrage Map "A", 1/20,000.
Sailly Sheet, 1/20,000.
(Hayter Barrage Plan.)

1. (a) Phase No. 2 of the attack, as outlined in 4th Cdn. Div. B.W. Instructions No. 2, will be resumed on Sept. 28th, 1918. Zero Hour will be 8:00 a.m.
- (b) 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade will attack in conjunction with 2nd Cdn. Inf. Bde. on the left and 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. on the right.
2. Tasks of 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade:
 - (a) The capture of RAILLENCOURT and SAILLY.
 - (b) The rolling up of the MARQUION LINE from SAILLY north-eastwards.
 - (c) The capture of the village of SANCOURT and BLECOURT.
 - (d) To exploit eastwards, to include CUVILLERS and BANTIGNY.
3. Assembly area, jumping-off line, Battalion leap-frog line, Brigade and Battalion boundaries and objectives as shown on map already issued to Battalions.
4. The Brigade will attack as follows:-
47th Cdn. Inf. Bn. on the right; 50th Cdn. Inf. Bn. on the left, followed by 44th and 46th Cdn. Inf. Bns., respectively.
5. The 10th Cdn. Inf. Brigade will advance through the 12th Cdn. Inf. Brigade, who are already holding the BLUE LINE, and a portion of the 1st Cdn. Inf. Brigade on left.
6. **Artillery.** The attack will be made under an artillery barrage, as per Hayter Barrage Plan, the first rest being for 10 minutes, subsequent lifts being at rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes.
7. **Machine Guns.** 1 Battery, No. 1 Coy. 4th Bn. C.M.G.C., will be attached to each Battalion for the attack, and will be specially employed to defend the flanks.
2 Batteries will be in Brigade Reserve, under C.O.C. 10th Cdn. Inf. Brigade, and will be similarly employed.
Batteries to report to Battalions and Brigade as already instructed.
8. 1st Cdn. Inf. Brigade is reported to hold HAYNECOURT, and TREED Road in X/5 and 11.
9. Brigade Hqs. in south side QUARRY WOOD in E.9.b. will close at 9 a.m.
Brigade Hqs. - Junction road and railway at E.30.d. 70. will open at 5:30 a.m., to which reports will be sent.

Issued at 10 p.m.

Brigade Major,
10th Canadian Infantry Brigade.



The sketch map indicates the position of the 46th Battalion (encircled in purple in the SW sector) in relation to the Canal du Nord (shown as the N-S blue line). The troops were towards the southern sector of the zone controlled by the Canadian Infantry – only the 44th Battalion was further south - and at the southern end of the section of canal which was dry. Lock (ecluse) N° 4 held back the water which filled the canal south of this section. [Source: <http://www.webmatters.net/txtpat/index.php?id=656>]

Aerial view of the village of Inchy-en-Artois, on 3 September 1918. Raymond Lawton died east of this village on 27 September. [Source: <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A5135>]



Canadian troops constructing a bridge across Canal du Nord, September 1918
[<https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>]



44th BATTALION PASADENAWAN REGIMENT CANADIAN INFANTRY.

Account on Operations before CUBRAI 27th - 29th
September 1918.

Ref. Map SALLY 1/80000.

PROGRESS OF
2nd DIV.

**PRELIMINARY -
FIRST PHASE.**

On the night of the 25th/26th September 1918 the Battalion relieved elements of the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade in the vicinity of SALICUM on the front opposite to its jump-off position and held the line during the 26th inst.

Opportunity was thus afforded all Officers and N.C.O.'s of making a close personal reconnaissance of the area to be covered by the advance of the Battalion in the attack next day.

2ND - 5.30 a.m. 27th inst.

BATTALION OBJECTIVE - SUMMER ROAD running through A.9.a. and C.

FORMATION -

"A" and "B" Assault Coys supported by "C" and "D" Coys respectively, each Coy on a 2 Platoon frontage, Battalion in four waves.

TASKS -

FIRST WAVE under barrage to make straight for objective, map it up and establish line of posts in front.
SECOND WAVE to come in alone support and mop up enemy disintegrated front of Battalion objective and consolidate in SUMMER ROAD.

THIRD WAVE to clean up CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD LINE and consolidate in the vicinity.
FOURTH WAVE to mop up CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD and move forward to CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD LINE.

Artillery support to be given throughout operation.

ASSEMBLY -

"A" and "B" Coys (support in the line) assembled on terrain laid by Lewis Gunners approximately on grid line between A.7 and A.8. "C" and "D" Coys (holding the line) before dawn withdrew from posts in order to conform with barrage and assembled in rear of front assault Coys, distance between waves 25 yards.

The assembly was made under rather difficult and trying conditions owing to darkness, rain and enemy shelling with Lewis Gun fire.

On assembly the Coys dug in to avoid casualties from enemy shelling and Machine Gun fire.

ASSAULT -

An excellent barrage opened at 6.20 a.m. On the West side of the CUBRAI, enemy Machine Gun opposition was met with but the leading Coys quickly dealt with it by enfilading movements and Lewis Gun fire. Front of A.9.a. 4 the enemy had a strong point but the leading Coys moved to close range, enfiladed both flanks, got behind this position and killed and captured 80 of the enemy. In this operation Lieut. Robertson ("A" Coy) was killed by an enemy stick bomb. Capt. Martin (D.O. "A" Coy) was wounded but carried on. 4 Machine Guns were captured. Moving on, 5 Light French Mortars were captured in the SUMMER ROAD, which was safely crossed. The 1st Coys successfully overcame

Machine Gun opposition in the CUBRAI and the support Coys moved in. Moving East of the CUBRAI the lanes in the wire were found to be well out. The main opposition was enemy Machine Guns, which were dealt with as above. The waves kept close to barrage and rushed these enemy Guns before they got into action. The front wave of the Battalion reached their objective at 6.15 a.m. and pushed forward to C. Lewis Gun fire was opened on enemy Machine Gun positions in the vicinity of CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD and the 4th Battalion leap-frogged our objective.

CONSOLIDATION -

Consolidation of the objective was rapidly made and put into a good state of defence. Outposts in the SUMMER ROAD and CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD were moved up and prisoners taken. Battalion Headquarters moved forward and established at 6.30 a.m. 29.23.

Subsequent to consolidation the Battalion was placed in the area A.9.a. and B. to allow room for the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade to move up in C.O. and A.

The complete success of this first phase of the operation was due to excellent artillery arrangements for wire cutting, fine artillery barrage, careful arrangements for assembly, opportunity for a close reconnaissance of the area to be captured, fine platoon and section handling in dealing with enemy posts and defence and good mutual support between the assault Coys. Mention may also be made of the good work done by Coy Scouts and runners in directing sections through gaps in wire and also of the stubborn resistance during the night 26th/27th of an isolated post in charge of Lieut. Sturley, placed to cover assembly. The enemy barrage was not heavy.

The morning was wet and dark and possibly had not been 20 minutes later could have been better. A sudden change in weather conditions accounted for this.

RE-ORGANIZATION -

The Battalion was immediately re-organized, each Coy on a 2 Platoon basis except "B" Coy, which was on a 3 Platoon basis. New Officers came from the Transport Lines and Capt. Blair took command of "A" Coy vice Capt. Martin, who had been wounded but remained with the Coy until the attack and consolidation had been completed. The result of this re-organization was that the fire power of the Battalion was much depleted, as there were only 22 Lewis Guns in Coys in place of 32.

**PRELIMINARY -
SECOND PHASE.**

In the afternoon of the 27th a warning order was given at a conference with General Hapton (G.O.C. 10th C.I.B.) for the Battalion to advance next morning, which instruction was subsequently confirmed at a meeting held late that night.

"A" Coys were warned and immediate preparations made for the Battalion task.

2ND - 6 a.m.

ASSEMBLY -

The Battalion started their march from their positions in A.9.a. and C. at 5 o'clock in the morning and completed their assembly immediately in rear of the 50th Battalion by 5.30 on the morning of the 28th inst at W.16.d. and 25.b. and A.

FORMATION -

"C" and "D" Assault Coys supported by "A" and "B" Coys respectively in formation as in prior operation.

To support the 60th Battalion in the advance, leap-frogging them at SUMMER ROAD in 11.15 a.m. 27.9. and C. thereafter with forward, captured the Village of SALICUM and captured and consolidated a line through A.9.a. and A. on SUMMER ROAD, thereby exploiting success. The 44th Battalion was 1st Support Battalion and after leap-frogging the 47th Battalion was to capture the Village of SALICUM and capture and consolidate the line A.10 a. and C.

The 44th moved forward under artillery barrage and had not much opposition until the outskirts of SALICUM on the night were reached, where the 50th Battalion (44th and 47th) were met with intense Machine Gun fire from the enemy, also enemy shelling. The 50th and 44th Battalions on left moved on behind the barrage but afterwards the attack front of the 44th Battalion swung towards SALICUM in order to assist in dealing with strong enemy opposition there. After a short pause the left flank of the 44th Battalion moved forward with our wave close on them. In crossing A.11.c. and A. and 22 intense enemy Machine Gun fire from North-East of SALICUM and from SALICUM was directed on the Battalion. Our Lewis Gunners in the front wave swung in and engaged hostile Machine Guns, thereby assisting the advance. The Machine Guns in A.11.d. 22 a. and A. were made under heavy enfilade enemy Machine Gun fire and the 44th Battalion leap-frogged the 60th Battalion on that road, moving ahead.

By this time the barrage was pretty thin and owing to checks to the Battalion well ahead.

SITUATION ON
NIGHT OF 27
9.18.

On the night after the operation had been overcome in A.11.d. 22 the Coys were battered with Machine Gun opposition from SALICUM. Our Lewis Guns continued checking these Guns and the advance was attempted by tactical rushes under enemy Machine Gun fire from A.11.d. 22, A.9.b. and the SALICUM ROAD. The advance continued until a point in front of the CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD in A.11.d. 22 was reached, but it was then found impossible to continue because of the enemy Machine Gun fire and a position was taken up in A.11.d. 22. Whilst here the enemy commenced counter-attacks from the direction of SALICUM, reaching a point on the railway on the Coys left flank. Attempts were made to push forward and in these Capt. Blair (D.O. "A" Coy) was killed and his 2 other Officers wounded, Capt. Gibbons taking charge. In this enemy counter-attack many casualties were inflicted upon him and though not having been obtained with the 44th Battalion on the right the Company discontinued advancing, was re-organized and consolidated in the SALICUM ROAD.

After crossing the SUMMER ROAD the night front Company was met with intense Machine Gun fire from A.11.d. 22, A.10.b. and SALICUM ROAD and the CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD, but they continued moving forward by rushes until the SALICUM ROAD was reached, where the Coy was counter-attacked by the enemy, who endeavored to bring forward his light Machine Guns. This counter-attack was met and the enemy killed and wounded except a few who ran back. The Company then went forward into the SALICUM ROAD.

Meanwhile the support Coy moved up and assisted to beat back the enemy and pushed into the SALICUM ROAD. Attempts were made to push forward under cover of Lewis Gun and rifle fire but without much success in these attempts. The 2 Coys finally occupied line in A.11.d. 22 and A.11.b.

SITUATION ON
LAST MORNING OF
28.9.18.

After leap-frogging on SUMMER ROAD the Coys advanced into their order and moved East about 100 yards, then the waves were checked by Machine Gun fire from several points on the CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD and from the vicinity of A.11.d. 22. These enemy Machine Guns were engaged by Lewis Gun fire and waves proceeded to move forward by tactical rushes and in this way made progress for about 300 yards, but enemy guns could not be silenced by fire. There was an absence of natural cover and though attempts were made to outflank these enemy guns they were unsuccessful. Lieut. Smith made touch with the 44th Battalion at A.11.d. 22 about 9 a.m.

French capture were sent up and their whole organization expanded on the enemy Machine Gun posts on the SALICUM ROAD in the vicinity of A.11.d. 22, and assistance was also given by an artillery officer of the 1st Division, who had his battery turned on various enemy Machine Gun posts on the road. Under cover of about 60 rounds of 18 pounders and Stokes shells the 44th Battalion endeavored to rush to this point. The enemy Machine Guns remained silent until the leading sections were within 250 yards of road, when they opened up with a strong barrage and stopped this move forward. Movement forward being impossible 2 Coys dug in under the best cover possible and engaged the enemy guns. The line ran through A.11.d. 22 and B.

During these operations Lieut. Gray (D.O. "A" Coy) was a killed, Lieut. Dunstan ("B" Coy) killed and Lieut. Bent Gray ("B" Coy) and Goggin ("B" Coy) wounded. The position at 9.30 a.m. was that the whole Battalion front was held up by enemy Machine Gun fire and there was no possibility of this opposition being outflanked on the left as he was holding the road in strength and was re-inforcing from SALICUM through A.11.d. 22.

In order to clear up the situation on the night Lieut. Goggin (Intelligence Officer) made a difficult journey down the SUMMER ROAD and finally got in touch with elements of the 44th and 47th Battalions at SALICUM and SALICUM ROAD, and A. and ascertained that their line was held up by intense Machine Gun fire. Elements of the 44th Battalion were also encountered here.

In the night enemy moved on to the CUBRAI-SUMMER ROAD and pushed and his Machine Gun activity intense. The enemy moved on from SALICUM down to the road and showed such activity in SALICUM, moving forward from there to trench system in A.11.d. 22. This movement was kept down as much as possible by Lewis Gun and rifle fire, in which the men of the 44th Battalion in the SALICUM ROAD rendered very able assistance.

Ammunition in all Coys ran out and parties were sent forward from time to time to keep up the supply and keep Lewis Guns and rifles going.

During the day and all night Headquarters Post in the road at 116.1 and 25.0 were established and manned.

MONDAY, 20th
1952 -

Boys were withdrawn to their original positions in the morning at 1.30 a.m. to allow for the 12th Brigade, going through, to be placed on the road.

ACHIEVEMENTS -

A mine was attached to Battalion were employed to protect night flank in event of counter-attack from 116.1. In addition 8 boys were posted in road at 116.1.0.10 to cover movement on the road ahead and on both flanks.

CASUALTIES -
123.021 -

The cause of the Battalion's success is attributed to the following factors:-

- (a) The intense frontal, enfilade and indirect enemy machine gun fire from the 12th Brigade road and the high intensity of the artillery support to cover the advance of the infantry in the latter stages;
- (b) The mobility of machine gun and rifle fire to cope with this opposition;
- (c) The readiness of enemy troops in 116.1 and 116.2, which prevented the arrival of the night boys to the front for the purpose of pushing ahead from our left flank. The removal of these boys in the circumstances would have been a very difficult matter, owing to their exposed position and even had it been possible would have left a big hole in the Brigade front. To have attempted this in the afternoon on the road in order to reach the 50th Battalion and the success of such an operation would have been very doubtful owing to the strength of the enemy. The flanks of the Battalion, in addition, would have been very much endangered.
- (d) The enemy machine gunners, who were extremely well sited in the last night, were to be picked up. In order to overcome machine gun fire in position, such as was encountered in this case, it would appear that there must have been:-
- (i) Breakdown of tactics; or
- (ii) A heavy barrage and direct barrage in front of infantry, with employment of smoke to enable our fire to penetrate through these machine gun defenses, and take them out and put them out.

EXERCISES -

Though the 12th Brigade had suffered heavy casualties since their transfer in July the result of their training was apparent and the 12th Brigade were skillfully led and handled by newly made leaders. The drafts were fought well and a final mention should be made of the fine work of re-interviewed officers just arrived from England and the more experienced officers of the Battalion.

CAPTURES -

There were captured in the operations of machine guns, 3 French Mortars and over 150 prisoners. In addition the Battalion accounted for a large number of enemy killed, particularly in his counter-attacks on the morning of the 29th inst.

In the forenoon in conversation with Brigade 1 advised of enemy movement in 116.1 and asked for artillery to be turned on it to keep down this movement. As the situation on the right was not clear and I wished assistance in case of an enemy counter-attack. At this time there was doubt as to whether some of our troops were not ahead of the 50th Battalion road.

BATTALION
HEADQUARTERS -

Detaching Headquarters moved forward with Battalion and 12th Brigade at 1.30 a.m. was established about 1.30 a.m. at approx. 116.1.0.00. (Order of 116.1.0.00)

About noon our artillery took on enemy machine gun posts on road at 116.1.0 and were further attacked to advance, but the advance was soon checked. Between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon the enemy heavily shelled with 8.1 and 8.2 both Coy positions and shortly afterwards observed machine on the West side of the 116.1.0.00. Artillery was immediately turned on. In our right he advanced but was immediately checked by 8.1 and 8.2 fire. At the same time and later he seemed to attack the 44th Battalion in front.

About 4.30 p.m. Colonel Ayler advised that he had now plenty of artillery at his disposal and that we had to capture the 116.1.0.00 road that night. It was arranged that a heavy barrage should be put on the road between 116.1.0 and 116.2, and that the road should be cleared and held in conjunction with the 44th Battalion. Arrangements were made immediately to have this carried out, the 2 Coy on the right having been designated to put in charge of west. Barker and the 12th on the left in charge of east. Barker. Under cover of the barrage the left Coy cut the wire in front of them and pushed the road, taking possession of it and establishing a position for 116.1.0.00 to 116.2.0.00. On the right, owing to intense machine gun fire from 116.1, the right Coy could not be pushed without very heavy casualties and the 12th Company failed to get possession of this road by means of filtering small parties forward and establishing posts. This was done during the course of the evening from 7.30 p.m. onwards and a line of posts was established from 116.1.0.00 to 116.2.0.00 with the 12th Coy on the 50th Battalion in the front and 12th Brigade forward in 116.1.0 and 116.2 in support.

This line of posts was held during the night until withdrawn about 1.30 in the morning of the 29th. On the left touch was established with the 8th Battalion and patrol connected up with them. The enemy were in very close proximity to the line all during the night, many of his parties in groups of 4 to 12 men being fired on by our posts and broken up. 2 prisoners came in on the left front. About 8.30 in the morning Major Martin (44th Battalion) called and arranged to move up on the right and establish route on the road on the remainder of the Brigade frontage.

CASUALTIES -

The total casualties during the operation were as per appendix attached.

The 116.1.0.00 file (supplied by Intelligence) proved of immense value and the Brigade Staff were indefatigable in meeting the wants of the Battalion.

Artillery liaison for wire cutting was most satisfactory.

COMMUNICATIONS -

Communication with Brigade was uniformly good, the line when broken being repaired in a very short time. Communication forward was difficult and dangerous owing to enemy machine gun fire and sniper and great credit is due to the Communication Section for the way in which communication was kept up.

ADMINISTRATIVE -

During the operations identification of 14 Units was obtained.

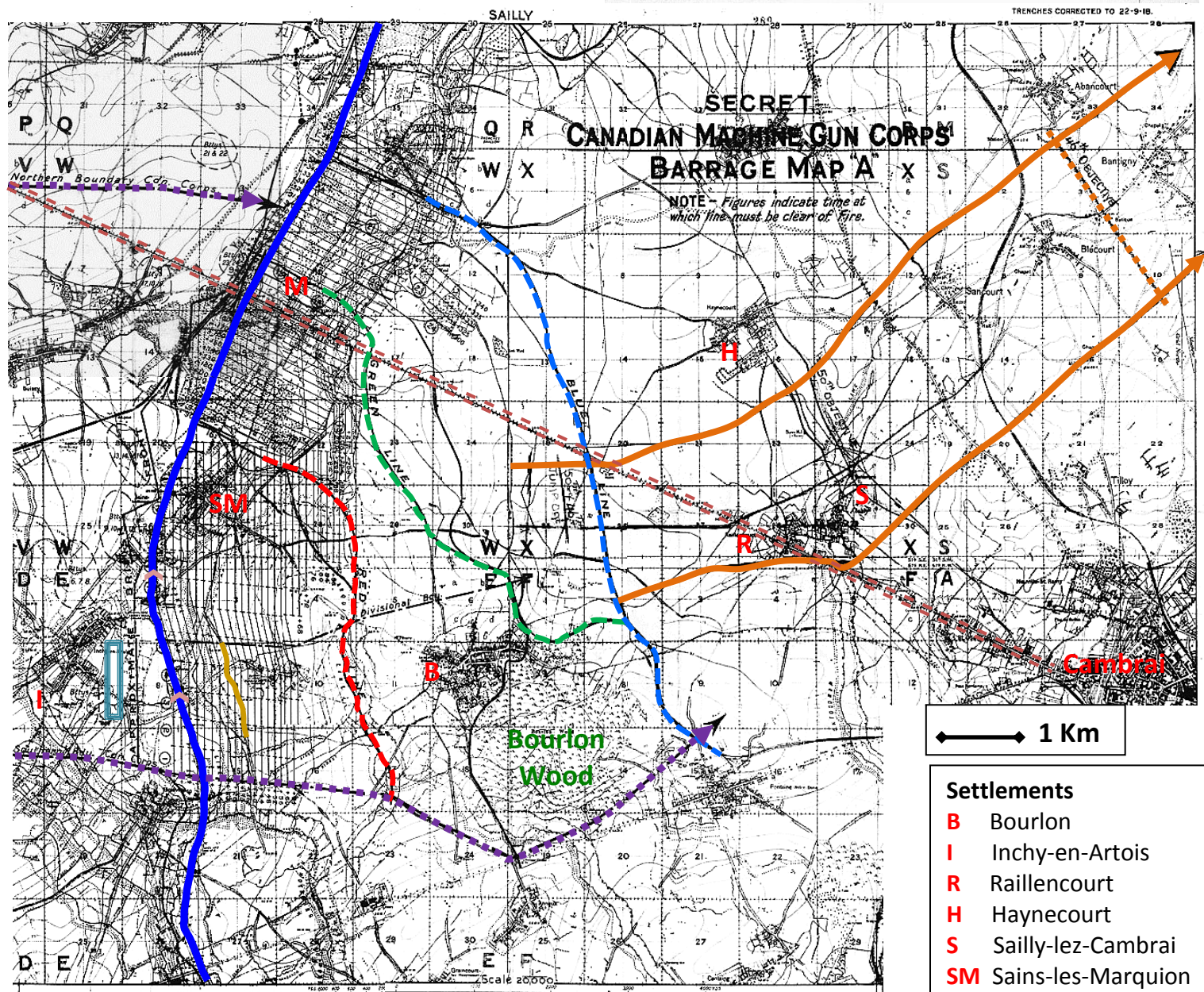
The War Diary entry for the action on 28 September, when Raymond Lawton died, and the following two days gives some further details:

Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
28-9-18	9.11pm	The Battalion commenced its march to assembly position as marked on Appendix No.28 and was in position when the barrage opened at 6 a.m. The advance went well until the ARRAS-CAMBRAI road was reached and advance East of this was made under heavy machine gun fire from RAILLENCOURT on our right and the DOUAI-CAMBRAI road and MARCOING line in front. This fire continued all day and our casualties were very heavy and the least movement was fired on and the enemy was in such a position that many of our men were hit when lying on the ground. Our men passed through 50th Battalion objective between 8 and 8.30 a.m. The position for the next two hours was obscure, but about 11 a.m. information and reconnaissance showed that our men were entirely held up and occupied position running through X.17.b. and d. and were holding the MARCOING line along with elements of 50th Battalion. No touch had been established with 44th or 47th Battalions on the right but our right flank was protected. In the afternoon it was reported that enemy was seen in numbers East of DOUAI-CAMBRAI road, about 5 p.m. an operation was arranged to enable us to establish our line on the DOUAI-CAMBRAI road. From 6.30 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. this road was bombarded by all the artillery at our Division's disposal. At 7.15 p.m. our B and D Companies advanced and established themselves along the road from X.11.d.56.45 to X.18.s.60.35. A and C Companies on the right did not go over at this time owing to what seemed to be a counter attack on our right against the 44th Battalion, however our men were filtered through by 11 p.m. connection made with B and D Companies at X.18.s.60.35 and road held south to X.13.c.40.05 where later touch was established with 44th Battalion. Many enemy were heard and seen during the night but our positions were not attacked.	
29-9-18	11pm	At 5 a.m. wire Operation Order No.1. Appendix No.29 was sent out and our line withdrawn as ordered, barrage for 12th Brigade commenced at 8 a.m. The 12th Brigade units passed through us shortly afterwards. At 10.30 a.m. Battalion commenced to march out to W.29.a and b. in accordance with Brigade wire L.28 Appendix No.30, and all units were settled by 4 p.m. The battalion is now a part of Brigade in Divisional reserve	App. 29 App. 30
30-9-18	11pm	Appendix 31 is C.O.'s report on operations of the 27th to the 29th. The men of the battalion are resting to-day. Reorganisation and re-equipping is being proceeded with. The Battalion Transport lines are now in the vicinity of E.9.b. Appendix 32 is detail of Officer casualties in operations 27th to 29th and number of other rank casualties.	App. 31 App. 32

During the action the 46th Battalion Canadian Infantry had 5 Officers and 50 Other Ranks killed.

An annotated version of part of the War Diary map is shown below.

WAR DIARY OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Leave heading and required.)		ORIGINAL
Summary of Events and Information		Remarks and references to Appendix
The strength of the Battalion as at the 20th September is as follows:-		
21 Officers, 685 Other Ranks.		
which includes 11 Officers and 136 Other Ranks detached.		
Actually with the battalion, 20 Officers and 547 Other Ranks.		
Casualties during the month are as follows:-		
Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.	Off. O.R.
7 125	22 584	- 6
		Died of wounds.
		Off. O.R.
		19
		Wounded (at duty).
		Off. O.R.
		4 4
Major. a/Officer Commanding, 46th Canadian Battalion.		



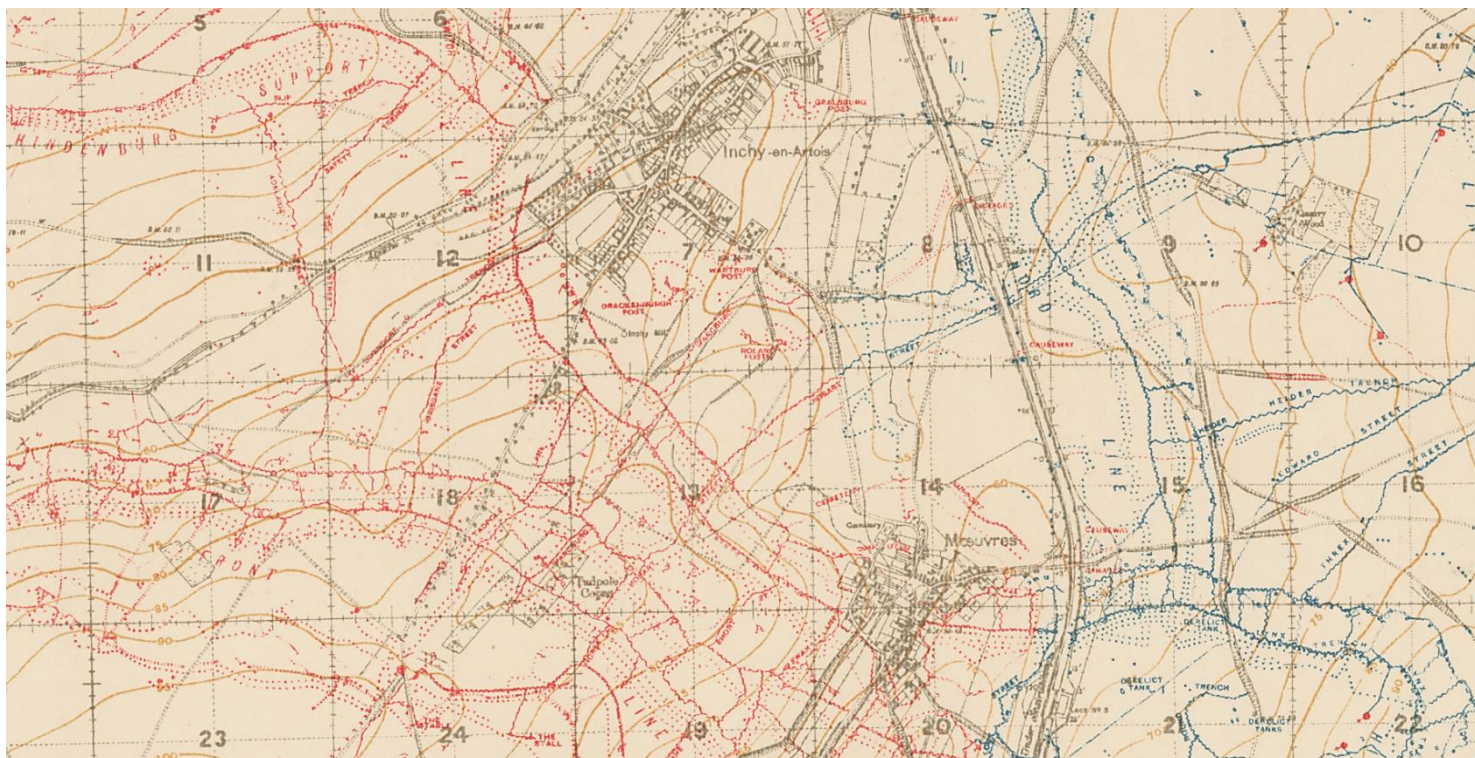
Key to coloured features and positions (from west (left) to east (right))

- Assembly area for the 46th Battalion before the conflict on 28 September 1918
- Northern and southern boundaries of the Canadian Corps.
- Sunken road – the first objective for the 46th Battalion
- The red, green and blue objectives for the Canadian Battalions
- Northern and southern boundaries for the troops of the 46th (and 50th) Bns.
- Projected final objective of the 46th Battalion
- Main road from Cambrai (SE of map) and Arras (off the map to the west)
- The parallel grey lines in the west are ranging lines for Allied artillery & machine guns

Settlements

- B** Bourlon
- I** Inchy-en-Artois
- R** Raillencourt
- H** Haynecourt
- S** Sailly-lez-Cambrai
- SM** Sains-les-Marquion
- M** Marquion

The Canal du Nord is represented by the N-S blue line to the west. Locks 3 (north) and 4 on the canal, shown by the salmon-coloured chevrons, define the dry section of the canal



1 mile

Canal du Nord

The German positions (in blue) to the east of the Canal du Nord on 21 September 1918. Inchy-en-Artois is in the north-central sector of this military map and Moeuvres is to the south.

[Source: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/print.cfm#zoom=15&lat=50.1724&lon=3.0554&layers=101465167&b=8>]

It appears probable that Raymond Frederick Lawton died about 2 months after his 34th birthday.

R 148.		N/E. Killed in action 27 9 18.		Medal) 367
Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Ledger)
1009413	Pte.	LAWTON R.F.	46th Batt	Folios)
				Receipt)
				Nos.)
No.	Honour or Award	Date	Authority	Details
1.	MILITARY MEDAL.	11.9.18.	Corp Order 1399	
		11.2.19.	L.G. 31173.	

Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards Roll – the register entry for Raymond Frederick Lawton is undated as the award was given posthumously

Awarded "The Military Medal" FRANCE

Surname LAWTON

Christian Name Raymond Frederick

Rank Pte.

Corps 46th Cam Inf Bn (Sask Regt)

Regimental Number 1009413

Date of Gazette

Registered Papers 8/21/737 Schedule Number 120263

68, Gen. No. 2740 (M.S.S.D.) W5041/RP266 20,000 A/R (X) 10000 W. & C. 1842 44

In order to avoid duplicate issues of Medals, it is imperative that the cards be referred to before any names are gazetted.



Raymond Lawton's War Grave at Queant Communal Cemetery British Extension, France [Photo: CWGC]



The War Memorial at Broadview, Saskatchewan, which commemorates Corporal Raymond Lawton