The Medlicott Brothers Go To War

By William J Anhorn K.C. ICD.D

William J. Anhorn was born and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Political Science) from the University of Calgary and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta. He returned to his hometown of Medicine Hat in 1976 and practiced law for over 35 years as a senior partner with the Law firm of Pritchard and Company. He retired in 2012 and he and his wife Joan Elaine Anhorn (Medlicott), a retired teacher, continue to reside there.



Always having had a keen interest in history and more recently genealogy, he has researched and written a series of articles on his own family and his extended family (Medlicott/McIvor) and their history.

He also has a passionate interest in the history of Medicine Hat and has researched and written numerous articles. He currently is a member of the Alberta Genealogical Society (Medicine Hat Branch) and Chairman of the Family History Research Group, and Former Chairman of Historical and Heritage Resource Management Committee of the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Company.

He is also a frequent contributor to the Alberta Genealogical Society newsletter- Relatively Speaking

He created his own blog where his articles have been posted and where he has styled himself as the "Mad Hatter Historian" Go to: http://wjanhorn.ca

Introduction:

One of the most interesting facts, which I discovered in researching the **Medlicott** family history, which is particularly relevant for those family members who were born in North America, is that the family origins can clearly be traced to a certain place…a place where the surname was derived from those who lived on or owned the lands. Few families anywhere can lay claim to such a distinction. Having owned lands or lived at the place from which they took their name, which name has been perpetuated through multiple generations and which now can be found throughout the world, including Australia, the United States and Canada and which place continues to exist is quite a remarkable achievement.

Medlicott continues to this day to be a township in the Parish of Wentnor, Shropshire, England, which is a relatively short distance from the border of Wales. The old Homestead, now called "Medlicott Hall Farm" on the Ordnance Survey, lies on the Western slope of the Longmynd Hill and Forest, near Church Stretton, a distance of some 20 miles south of Shrewsbury.

Given that the Medlicott lands were in relative close proximity to Birkenhead, Cheshire, England and the English port of Liverpool, it not unexpected, as you will see, that many Medlicott descendants ended up in that area of the country and then journeyed through that port throughout the world including to North America, Canada and indeed…..Alberta.

Two such descendants were two brothers, Thomas and Edward Medlicott, who both immigrated to Canada and their life's story and that of another brother named George is worth documenting and preserving as part of the family history, particularly as it relates to their loyal service to their country during the Great War. In total, all five Medlicott brothers went off to war.

The Adventures of Medlicott Brothers in Canada

Thomas and Edward were the sons of Edward Medlicott and Jane Wright, who together had a family of 8 children: Sarah (1880), **Edward** (1883), Helen (1885), **William** (1887), **Thomas** (1889) Betsy (1893), **George** (1895) and **Gilbert** (1898).

It appears that early on in the marriage of Edward and Jane Medlicott, that they took up residence in Birkenhead, Cheshire, England as all of the children were born there. (Source: 1891 and 1911 English Census).

Birkenhead and the port of Liverpool, which is across the Mersey River from Birkenhead is a short 70 miles from Shropshire and the Medlicott township to which I have referred and which is described in greater detail in an earlier article, entitled, " The Medlicott Family History: A Family of Knights, Lords and Ladies".

Thomas Medlicott (1889-1958)

My wife's grandfather, Thomas Medlicott was born on November 24th, 1889 in Birkenhead, Cheshire, England and passed away in September 1958 at Medicine Hat Alberta, Canada. He married Helen Williams (1891-1979) and they had one child-Norman Thomas Medlicott. Norman is the father of my wife, Joan Elaine Medlicott and she has two other siblings: Charlene Anne and Thomas Clinton.

Norman Thomas Medlicott was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, on June 29, 1924. He passed away on February 10th, 1991. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII.

Edward Medlicott (1883-1956)

Edward appears to have been the first of this branch of the family to leave England and venture to Canada. In a passenger manifest from 1907, Edward at age 21, travelled from Liverpool to Quebec City, Quebec, Canada with his ultimate destination being Calgary, Alberta. A later ship manifest from 1932 in a return trip from England to Canada verifies that he had taken up residence in Calgary, Alberta in 1907 and resided there until his passing.

Thomas appears to have followed his brother to Western Canada five years later as a ship manifest indicated an arrival in

Canada in 1912, with the stated intention of "*meeting brother in Calgary, Alberta".*

Both brothers identified their occupations as "painters", which it appears was a common line of work among the family members of the time and both were employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Thomas moved to Medicine Hat sometime before 1916 and continued his employment with the CPR as a sign painter until his retirement. Edward remained in Calgary.

Thomas married Helen Williams following the war in Montreal, Quebec on the 4th day June 1919 and together they returned to Medicine Hat, where they resided for the rest of their lives.

In 1916, Edward Medlicott married Elizabeth Gibb, a registered nurse aged 29, who was working and living in Calgary. Her parents, James and Jemima Jane Gibb and their 6 children immigrated to Canada in 1907 and immediately took up residence in Calgary. Like the Medlicott brothers, all of the Gibb children were born in Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. It appears obvious that the Gibb family and the Medlicott family were well-acquainted with one another, perhaps as a result of both originating from the same city, as early census records from Alberta indicated that Edward resided with the Gibb family as a "boarder".



In 1918, Elizabeth died suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 31. The circumstances of her death remain a mystery.

Edward resided in Calgary after the war but remained a widow and he died there in 1956.

The Canadian Medlicott Brothers and the Call to Arms:

On May 1st 1915, Edward enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) and saw action in the First World War. The Military records of Edward Medlicott (#446463) provide an interesting part of the family history and are worth detailing for the edification of future generations.

Upon enlisting, Edward Medlicott was initially assigned to the 56th Canadian Overseas Battalion and was a member of that unit from May 1, 1915 to June 30th, 1915 when he was transferred to the 30th Canadian Reserve Battalion, where he served from June 30th 1915 to October 12th, 1915.

Thereafter he was transferred to the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion and having arrived in France, he joined his unit on October 23rd 1915.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No.

Folio. A.98131

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

1. What is your name? — Edward Medlicott
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? — Birkenhead - England
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? — Edward Medlicott - Father
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? — 9 Mount Grove - Birkenhead - England
5. What is the date of your birth? — 12 May 1883
6. What is your Trade or Calling? — Painter
7. Are you married? — No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? — Yes No
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? — Yes No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? If so, state particulars of former Service. — 1 Cheshire 4 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

E Medlicott (Signature of Man).

J. B. Jones (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Edward Medlicott, 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.

E Medlicott (Signature of Recruit)

Date May 1 1915 J. B. Jones (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Edward Medlicott, 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.

E Medlicott (Signature of Recruit)

Date May 1 1915 J. B. Jones (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 Calgary this 1st day of May 1915

Geo. Morfitt (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

Geo. Morfitt (Approving Officer)

M. F. W. 23.
150 M.—12-14.

On June 3rd, 1916 at Ypres (Zillebeke)[1] Edward was struck by machine gun/rifle bullets while engaging on an advance or assault upon the German defences resulting in severe injuries to his right ankle and thigh with the bullets passing through his legs. According to the medical records, he lay injured in "no man's land" throughout the day and night for 22 hours before crawling back behind allied lines and receiving medical attention. He received initial treatment at a field hospital at the front line (Poperinghe) and then was admitted to the General Military Hospital at Camiers on 05/06/1916. His injuries were described as "*GSW—both legs-severe*".[2]

He was later transferred to the Military Hospital at York on 20/06/16 where he underwent surgery to the right ankle. He was later transferred to the Kings RXH Bushby Park on 08/08/1916 for rehabilitation.

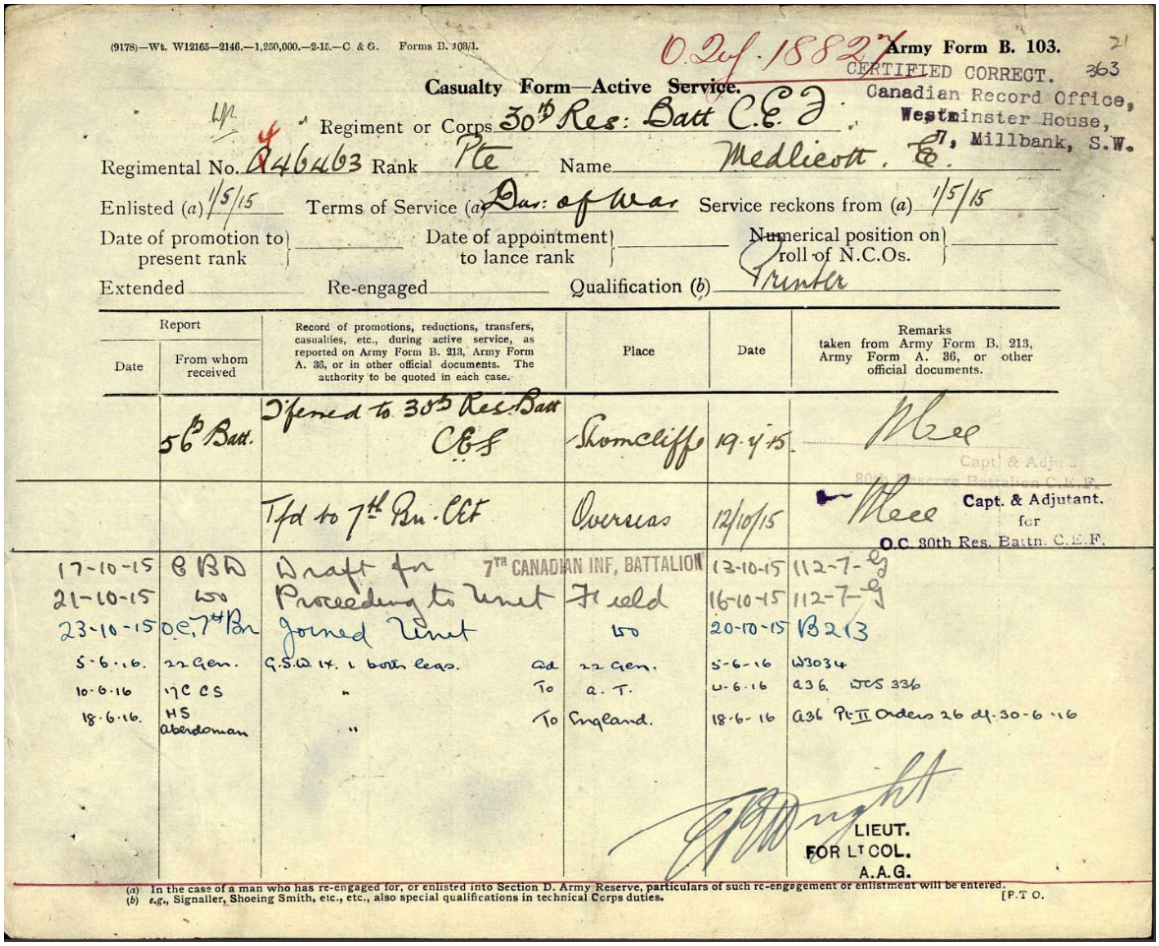
It was subsequently determined due to primarily the injury to the right ankle that he was no longer fit for active duty and he was subsequently discharged from hospital and sent back to Canada. He was admitted to the Ogden Hospital in Calgary where he continued to receive treatment.

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[1] The village of Zillebeke is located approximately one and a half miles south-east of Ypres and the area is well known as a major battlefield during WWI. Several military cemeteries can be found near the village, which is currently a part of Ypres. One of the cemeteries is the Perth Cemetery (China Wall) and among one of the many gravesites originally marked by a wooden cross is the grave of Ernest Lloyd (also known as Ernest Blick). Military records indicate that he was a member of the 43rd Canadian Battalion and that coincidentally, while taking part in a major Canadian offensive, he was killed in action on the 3rd of June 1916.

[2] The term "GSW" is an abbreviation in medical parlance for the proximate cause for the injury. It means "gunshot wound" and was used extensively in the medical records of those hospitalized during WW I and continues to be used to the present.

He was ultimately discharged from active duty on the 18th day of April 1918.



(9178)—Wt. W12165—2146.—1,250,000.—2-15.—C & G. Forms B. 103/1.

0.2nd.1882 Army Form B. 103. 21

CERTIFIED CORRECT. 363
Canadian Record Office,
Westminster House,
7, Millbank, S.W.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 30th Res: Batt C.E.F.

Regimental No. 246463 Rank Pte Name Medlicott. E.

Enlisted (a) 1/5/15 Terms of Service (a) Dur: of War Service reckons from (a) 1/5/15

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) Trmptr

Report Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
	5th Batt.	Dfsned to 30th Res. Batt C.E.F.	Shorncliffe	19.4.15	Mee Capt. & Adjt. 30th Reserve Battalion C.E.F.
		T/fd to 7th Bn. C.E.F.	Overseas	12/10/15	Mee Capt. & Adjutant. for O.C. 30th Res. Battn. C.E.F.
17-10-15	B Bn	Draft for 7TH CANADIAN INF. BATTALION	Field	13-10-15	112-7-9
21-10-15	do	Proceeding to Unit	do	16-10-15	112-7-9
23-10-15	O.C. 7th Bn	Joined Unit	do	20-10-15	B213
5-6-16.	22 Gen.	G.S.W. rt. l. both legs.	Ad 22 Gen.	5-6-16	W3034
10-6-16	17 C.C.S	"	To A.T.	11-6-16	A36 WCS 336
18-6-16.	HS Aberdonian	"	To England.	18-6-16	A36 Pt II Orders 26 dd. 30-6-16

LIEUT.
FOR LT COL.
A.A.G.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D. Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

[P.T.O.

B. P. C.
DEPT. OF MILITIA & DEFENCE
APR 10 1918
H.Q. CANADA.

(Medical Officers will please read this Form carefully before using it. See instructions, page 4.)

FORM TO BE USED FOR WARRANT OFFICERS, N.C.O'S AND MEN

MEDICAL HISTORY OF AN INVALID

STATION Ogden, Calgary DATE Mar. 22, 1918.

1. (a) Unit 56th Battn (b) Regimental No. 446463 (c) Rank Pte.

(d) Surname Medlicott (e) Christian name Edward

2. Age last birthday 34 yrs Date of birth May 12, 1883

3. Enlisted at Calgary on May 5, 1915

4. Personal description :—

(a) Height 5' 5" (b) Weight 147 lbs (stripped) (c) Complexion Medium

(d) Colour of hair Brown (e) Colour of eyes Blue (f) Identification marks Nil

5. Address after discharge (for the use of the Board of Pension Commissioners)

3620 2nd St. S.W., Calgary

6. Former trade or occupation Painter & Paperhanger.

7. (a) Service To Mar. 21, 1918 — Years 2 — Days 320

	Periods	
	From	To
56th Battn	May 5, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915
7th "	Oct. 23, 1915	Date

(b) Has he been overseas ? Yes

8. Present disease or disability (use authorized nomenclature if possible) Limitation of movement of rt. ankle.

(a) Date of origin June 3, 1916 (b) Place of origin France

(c) Cause* G.S.W.

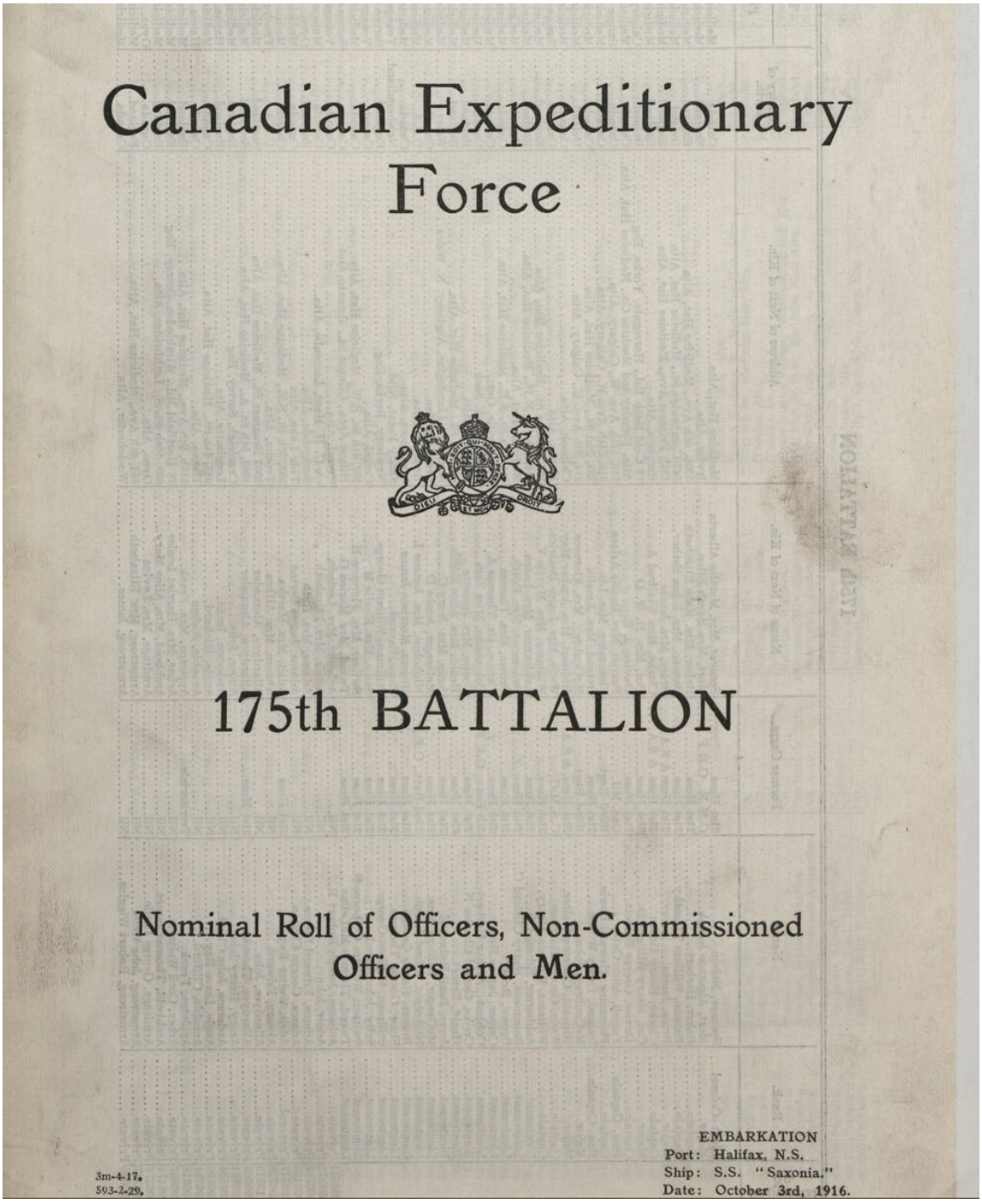
*(Here include original disease or injury)

If further space is needed for this or other answer, use page 4

9. Present condition. (Important, to be a full description of the present disabling condition or conditions).

He is a healthy well developed man who walks with a limp. He has a scar on the right external malleolus passing downward and forward for about 3½". This was caused by a bullet which evidently injured the external malleolus and the os-calcis . The wound is now well healed and is not tender. The foot is flat. He complains that if he walks one mile thefoot swells and causes him pain thro the instep. At present there is a small amount of swelling in front of the ankle. He can bring the foot to a rt angle, and he can extend about 30%, of normal. H e cannot evert or invert the foot. The heel can now be brought to the ground. There are three wounds in the thigh which cause no disability. All other systems are normal.

175th Canadian Expeditionary Force- A Medicine Hat Battalion



Canadian Expeditionary Force

175th BATTALION

Nominal Roll of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.

EMBARKATION
Port: Halifax, N.S.
Ship: S.S. "Saxonia."
Date: October 3rd, 1916.

3m-4-17.
593-2-29.

Thomas Medlicott (Reg # 696055) also joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on January 27th, 1916 and saw action overseas in WWI. He was a member of the 175th Battalion and it is noted in his attestation papers as having previous military experience -2 yrs. with the 4th Cheshire's and 4 years with the Territorials.

Indeed, it was quite common that young men in England and those immigrating to Canada were often identified as having prior military service, either in England or Canada, which made them a more attractive candidate for military service.

Based in Medicine Hat, Alberta, the 175th Battalion began recruiting during the winter of 1915/16 in the Medicine Hat area and was organized and became an officially authorized unit on July 15, 1916 by a General Order #69 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Nelson Spencer. The infantry Battalion embarked overseas as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force from Halifax, Nova Scotia aboard the S.S. Saxonia on October 4th, 1916 and had a strength of 30 officers and 847 other ranks and disembarked in Liverpool, England on October 13th, 1916.

The Battalion quickly became a Reserve Unit with many of its members being drafted or assigned to other brigades or units to fill their depleted ranks, owing to the severe casualty list of both killed and injured.

ORIGINAL.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 696055

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname? — Medlicott
1a. What are your Christian names? — Thomas
1b. What is your present address? — 521. C Princess Ave Med Hat
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? — Birkenhead England
3. What is the name of your next-of kin? — Edward Medlicott
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? — 9 Mount Grove Birkenhead England
4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? — Father
5. What is the date of your birth? — 24 Nov 1889
6. What is your Trade or Calling? — Painter
7. Are you married? — No
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? If so, state particulars of former Service. — 2 years 4th Cheshires 3 " Territorials
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, Thomas Medlicott, 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.

Thos Medlicott (Signature of Recruit)

Date January 27 1916. Chas. F. Tilley (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Thomas Medlicott, 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.

Thos Medlicott (Signature of Recruit)

Date January 27 1916. Chas. F. Tilley (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 Medicine Hat this 27 day of January 1916.

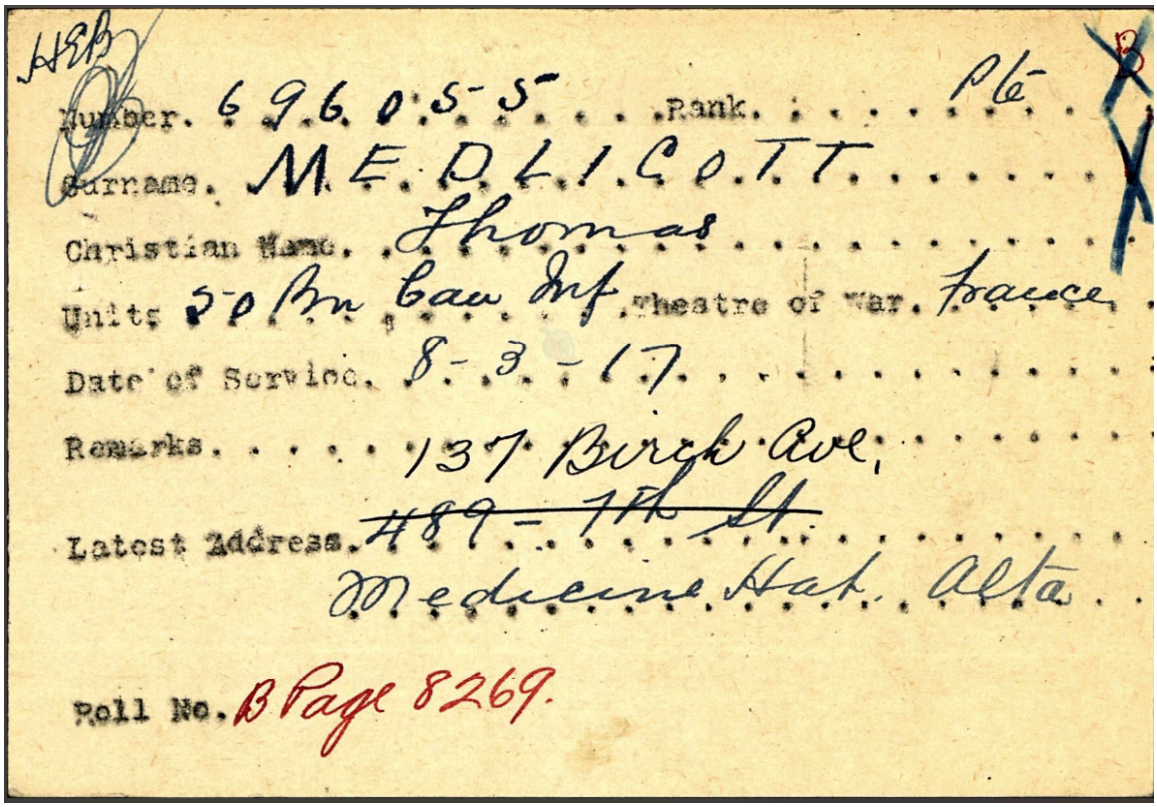
A J Hayes (Signature of Justice)

16 of 19

M. F. W. 23.
400M.—1-15.

In November 1916, 62 men of the 175th Battalion were immediately assigned to the 31st Canadian Battalion and another 51 men were drafted to fill the ranks of the 50th Battalion.

The remaining members of the 175th Battalion were then absorbed into the 21st Reserve Battalion on January 10, 1917.


Number. 696055 ... Rank. Pte.
Surname. MEDLICOTT
Christian Name. Thomas
Units 50 Bn Can Inf. Theatre of War. France
Date of Service. 8-3-17
Remarks. 137 Birch Ave;
Latest Address. ~~489 - 7th St~~
Medicine Hat. Alta
Roll No. B Page 8269.



It appears from the available military records that Thomas Medlicott was one of the 51 members that were assigned to the 50th Bn and that he entered the "theatre of war" arriving in Le Havre, France on March 8th, 1917.

His active duty in France was relatively speaking, short lived as his military medical records indicate that on June 2nd, 1917 at the infamous Vimy Ridge, he was wounded by a machine gun bullet that penetrated his left forearm resulting in a fracture of his left arm.



He was initially treated at a field hospital at the front line in France and then transported and admitted to the East Leeds War Hospital 7/06/1917.

He was later transferred for further treatment on July 5th, 1917 to the Canadian C.H. Woodcote Hospital at Epsom Park where he was hospitalized for 41 days, followed by a further transfer to the Granville Canadian Special Hospital at Ramsgate on August 15th, 1917.

He was subsequently transferred to the Lord Derby War Hospital at Warrington, England on August 31,1917 where he continued to be hospitalized until September 26th 1917 when he was transferred to the Convalescent Hospital at Epsom. He was discharged on November 28th 1917.

He continued to remain in England as a member of CEF but as a member of a “casualty unit” pending repatriation back to Canada. On the 23rd of January 1918, he was sent back to Canada aboard the S.S. Delta departed from Liverpool and arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia on January 31st 1918.





The photographs shown above were found in the personal album of Thomas Medlicott and were likely taken by him as he was an avid photographer. The date and location are unknown but would be circa 1917.

The first picture clearly indicates a hospital setting with injured soldiers being attended to by nurses.

The second photograph is a gathering of nurses and doctors who had likely treated him prior to his discharge from hospital.

FORM D.M.S. 1300.
8137—50m—28/2/17.

Surname	Christian Name or Names	Reg. No.
Medlicott	T.	696055

Rank	Unit	Co.	Troop	Batty.
Pte	Alta.	50th Bn		

Hospital: East Leeds War[illegible]-6-17 — Date of Admission

Transferred Canadian Woodcote Pk Epsom Hosp. 5.7.17.
Granville Spec. Ramsgate Hosp. 16-8-17.
Lord Derby War Warrington. Hosp. 31.8.17.
Epsom & onal. Hosp. 26-9-14

Diagnosis: G.S.W. Fract. Lt F'arm R.
(1)
Later Diagnosis (if changed)
(2)
(3)

Additional Diagnosis: if more than one state present

DISPOSITION — Date — REMARKS

C.L. 13-6-17 B323
15.6.17 B325 note diag. Dis 28-11-17
10.7.17 B344.
" 20-8-17. B376.
6.9.17. B3.
28-9-14 B22(2)
7-12-17 B82.2

A.M.D. 2 DEPT.
Bch. of D.G.M.S. O.M.F.C. London

I. 1237
11

Army Form I. 1237.

MEDICAL CASE SHEET.*

No. in Admission and Discharge Book.	Regimental No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.
E.T.C. 764 Year	696055.	Pte.	Medlicott.	J.

Unit.	Age.	Service.
50th Batt. Canadians.	27.	Total 1 yr 12. In Fd: 5/12.

Station and Date.

Disease G.S.W. Arm (L) injuring Ulnar Nerve. ~~Slight~~ Severe Dangerous

The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington.

NEXT OF KIN

INOCULATION AGAINST ENTERIC

TV 1	TV 2	TV Nil.
Date		

Sept 3/17 Wound Left Forearm perforating & injuring Ulnar nerve. Closure. 1 Session of Ulnar nerve. See Notes. Wound healed. Fit & Transfer Epsom. Refund & Sent Notes for Records

J. Medlicott

Cross out that which does not apply.

2217 of 2565

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Discharge Certificate

No. 696055 (Rank) Corporal Name ---Thomas Medlicott----

Unit 175th. Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.

Address on Discharge

Character and Conduct VERY GOOD

Former Occupation Sign Painter.

Special Qualifications of Value in Civil Life

Medals and Decorations

Remarks

Signed at Calgary Alberta this Fourteenth day of July 19 18.

W W Nasmyth

Name of Officer Lieut.-Col.

Commanding District Depot M. D. 13

Rank

Appointment

2248 of 2565

MEDICAL HISTORY OF AN INVALID

STATION Ogden, Calgary. DATE May, 23rd/1918.

1. (a) Unit 175th. Bn. (b) Regimental No. 696055 (c) Rank Cpl.

(d) Surname Medlicott. (e) Christian name Thomas

2. Age last birthday 28 Years Date of birth Nov., 24th/1889.

3. Enlisted at Medicine Hat, Alta., on Jan., 27th/1916.

4. Personal description :—

(a) Height 5'-5½" (b) Weight 138 lbs. (stripped) (c) Complexion Ruddy

(d) Colour of hair Auburn (e) Colour of eyes Blue (f) Identification marks Scar on forehead.

5. Address after discharge (for the use of the Board of Pension Commissioners) c/o J.C. Fleming, 489 7th., St.,

6. Former trade or occupation Sign Painter. Medicine Hat, Alta.,

7. (a) Service	To May, 23rd., 1918.	Years 2	Days 116.

	Periods	
	From	To
175th., Batt'n.	Jan., 27th/1916.	Mar, 8th., 1917.
50th, Batt'n.	Mar., 8th/1917.	Date.

(b) Has he been overseas? Yes.

8. Present disease or disability (use authorized nomenclature if possible) Limitation of movement of fingers of left hand.

(a) Date of origin June, 2nd., 1917. (b) Place of origin France.

(c) Cause* G. S. W.

*(Here include original disease or injury)

If further space is needed for this or other answer, use page 4

9. Present condition. (Important. to be a full description of the present disabling condition or conditions).

This man is a well developed healthy man. Normal in every respect except for the disability due to G.S.W. of forearm. On June 2nd., 1917, a machine gun bullet passed through the left forearm entering on palmer surface of forearm about middle and coming out on the dorsal surface about 3" further down. He complains at present of an indefinite numbness of all the fingers, but there is no anaesthesia. The hand is cyanosed and prespires freely. There is no atrophy of any muscles. There is no limitation of movement of the thumb. The index fingers is held in a partly flexed position. The movement at the

[After describing all abnormalities, anatomical and functional, contributing to present incapacity (see section 11) state whether such incapacity is directly due to (a) weakness, (b) loss (complete or partial) of an organ or member or of its functions, or (c) to the necessity for rest of the body or of some of its parts.]

M. F. B. 227.

P.T.O. to Page 4

This space to be for numbers.

Proceedings on Discharge.

M

(When forwarded for confirmation these proceedings should be accompanied by the documents specified on fourth page.)

No.	696055.
Rank	Corporal.
Name NOTE—The name must agree strictly with that on enlistment unless changed subsequently by authority.	Thomas Medlicott.
Corps (Squadron, Battery or Company)	175th. Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.
Date of Discharge	July 14th. 1918.
Place of Discharge	Calgary Alberta.

1. DESCRIPTION AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE.

Age 28 years 7 months.
Height 5 feet 5 3/4 inches.
Complexion Ruddy.
Eyes Blue.
Hair Auburn.
Trade Sign Painter.
Intended place of residence (To be given as fully as practicable.) 489-7th. Street, Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Descriptive Marks

+ G.S.W. scar left Forearm

Deceased 24-9-58

2. The above-named man is discharged in consequence of Being medically unfit for further service on account of Wounds received in Action

(Authority Routine Order # 237 dated Ottawa 22-2-18)

N.B.—The cause of discharge must be worded as prescribed in the King's Regulations and be identified with that on the character certificate. If discharged by superior authority, the number and date of the letter to be quoted.

n the handwriting of the Commanding Officer, who vill himself make identical entries on the character ertificate and initial them.

3. Conduct and character while in the service have been, according to the records, etc.

VERY GOOD

N. B.—This will be assessed when practicable, by the Commanding Officer, in the presence of the soldier and the Officer Commanding his Squadron, Battery or Company:

4. Special qualifications for employment in civil life. (Vide para. 332, K. R. & O., Canada.)

George Medlicott (1895-1918)-Another One of the Five Medlicott Brothers "Serving the Colours"



The involvement of members of the Medlicott brothers in World War I, would not be complete without mentioning another member of the Medlicott family, George Medlicott.

In fact, all Five Medlicott brothers participated in WWI.

George was born in 1895 in Birkenhead, Cheshire, England and was the brother of Edward and Thomas Medlicott. He joined the 9th Cheshire Regiment (reg. # 49899) and was killed in action on June 6th, 1918.

He was memorialized in the Soissons Memorial in France.

The Soissons Memorial is a World War I memorial located in the town of Soissons, France. The memorial lists 3,887 names of British soldiers with no known grave, which were killed in the area between May and August 1918 during what was referred to as the German Spring offensive.

Based upon reliable sources, it would appear that George was killed in an Allied counter offensive following the Third Battle of the the Aisne.



This was a massive surprise attack, which lasted from May 27th to June 6th, 1918 and was the first full-size German offensive following the Lys Offensive in Flanders in April of that year. The battle began with a massive bombardment followed by a poison gas drop. With the defenses spread thin, the British army was unable to stop the attack and the Germans advanced 40 km through a gap in the front line between Reims and Soissons. However, following many successful counter-attacks, the German advance was halted on June 6th, 1918 and much of the previous lost territory was restored.

One of the regiments involved in the counter-offensive was the Cheshire Battalion including the 9th and 4th Cheshire regiments. (Birkenhead).

The War diaries or intelligence summary of the 9th Cheshire regiment provide graphic detail surrounding this area of France and the presumed date of death of George Medlicott.

The **hand-written** war diary of the regiment recites the following:

"*June 3rd 1918-Montagne de Bligny*

…Intelligence reports indicate possible ***attack on the morning*** *of June 5th….*

June 5th

…Patrols were sent out and the patrol detailed to investigate the suspected enemy post in the small wood (discovered last night) and came into contact with about 10 of the enemy; shots were exchanged and two Germans killed. This was about midnight….

June 6th

…At 3:00 am, the enemy put down a heavy barrage on the positions occupied by the French on the immediate right of the brigade. This gradually spread to the left and by 3:30 the battalion area was being subjected to the barrage fire (artillery). The enemy was observed afterwards to be advancing to the attack in a south-westerly direction with covering fire also being given by his machine guns from both flanks. Many casualties were inflicted on him by rifle, Lewis gun and machine gun fire. He succeeded, ***however, in*** *driving the French* ***from*** *the village of Bligny and into Bois de Reims. This left our Brigade right flank completely exposed. The 8/N Staffs therefore formed a defensive*

flank by withdrawing to the road (about the letter E of CHAMBRECY)- reference map Soissons 1/100,000. By attacking in large numbers, the enemy contrived to eject the front line troops and gain possession of their trenches. The commanding officer issued orders for a counter-attack.….this attack was held up by heavy machine gun fire before reaching their objective and did not succeed in turning out the enemy and the parties were compelled to withdraw and take up a defensive position on the road south of Montagne de Bligny. The enemy had by now (10am)a strong force in our late front line and attempted to advance. All his efforts were frustrated by fire from the line in the road. About 10:30 orders were received that the hill must be held at all costs and the commanding officer commenced re-organizing for another counter-attack. The counter attack was duly launched around 1:00 pm….

The Cheshire party pushed forward and on reaching the crest of the hill, they came under heavy fire from the enemy, established in our old frontline, charged and recaptured our position at the point of bayonet….

June 7th 1918

The casualties sustained by the battalion on the 6th were found to be 2 officers Lieutenant Berry missing, C.H. Jones wounded and 91 other ranks killed by enemy fire…..

Although it cannot be established definitively that George Medlicott died during the course of this engagement, given the reported date of his death, the location of the battle, the regiment information and the memorial location in Soissons, France, it is very likely or probable that this was, indeed, the case.

His untimely death on the battlefield of France was reported in the local newspaper, which sadly was a ritual which was far too often witnessed by the local townspeople.



KILLED IN ACTION.

Mr. and Mrs. Medlicott, of 9, Mountgrove, have received official intimation that their fourth son, Pte. George Medlicott, aged 23, was killed in action in June last while serving in France. He joined the Cheshire Regt. in 1915, and was drafted to France in August, 1916. Prior to joining the Army he was apprenticed to Mr. Grierson, painter and plumber, Charing Cross, and was educated at St.

Private GEORGE MEDLICOTT.

Michael's School, where he won his scholarship. Mr. and Mrs. Medlicott have received various letters of sympathy expressing the regret felt by both officers and men at their son's death. They have five sons serving the colours.

The Christmas Blitz of Manchester (England) and the Untimely Death of Gilbert Medlicott (1888-1940)

Gilbert Medlicot was yet another Medlicott brother who participated in the service of his country during WWI. Gilbert was born in Birkenhead, the Wirral, Cheshire on 27th October, 1897. He was the youngest of the 11 children of Edward, a house painter, and his wife Jane (née Wright)

Gilbert was a Private in the Royal Welch Fusiliers and returned from the battlefield of France and Belgium apparently unscathed. But in a cruel twist of fate, the ravages of war came to his doorstep and resulted in his untimely death in 1940.

In 1939, Gilbert is recorded as working away from home, as a plumber on a public works contractor, in Carlisle but had a permanent residence along with his wife and child in Manchester.

In the fall of 1940, Nazi Germany carried out a bombing campaign against the United Kingdom during the Second World War. It became known as the "Blitz". The name is a shortened form of *Blitzkrieg*, a term used in the popular press to describe a German style of surprise attack used during the war.

It lasted for eight months, from 7 September, 1940 to 11 May, 1941.

Towards the end of the Battle of Britain in 1940, daylight air superiority over the United Kingdom was contested between the *Luftwaffe* and the Royal Air Force.

Germany began conducting mass air attacks against British cities, beginning with London, in an attempt to draw the RAF Fighter Command into a battle of annihilation.

In late autumn 1940, the Blitz spread beyond London to Britain's other major towns and cities. Many were the locations of major war industries. However, it was often their compact commercial centres and residential areas that were most badly affected by air raids. Manchester, in the north-west of England, was hit by two nights of air raids in December 1940. These raids were often referred to as the 'Christmas Blitz'.

Manchester and the surrounding area was a major centre of industry during the Second World War. Many large firms were concentrated in the Trafford Park area, making it an important target for German bombers. Major producers included the aircraft manufacturer A V Roe which produced Manchester and Lancaster bombers. Ford also employed 17,000 workers making aero engines in a huge new factory complex. During the air raids on 22-24 December 1940, the Metropolitan-Vickers works in Mosley Road was just one of the area's factories to be badly damaged.

Manchester was attacked by German bombers on the night of 22-23 December and again the following night, 23-24 December. The pattern of hitting cities on consecutive nights was a tactic increasingly used by the Luftwaffe to inflict maximum disruption and destruction on its targets.

As a result of these raids, an estimated 684 people died and more than 2,000 were injured.

On the first night of raids, 272 tons of high explosive bombs were dropped. The following night another 195 tons of high explosives hit the city. Almost 2,000 incendiaries were also dropped on the city across the two nights.



A residential area of Manchester Bombed on December 23/24th 1940

At number 49, Claude Road Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, **Gilbert Medlicott** was killed in the bombing on the night of 23rd/24th December, 1940.

First hand family historical accounts indicate that he was sitting in his living room when a German bomb hit the residential area.

A Home Guard volunteer, he is one of over 1000 fellow members of that regiment named on the Commonwealth War Graves site.

His wife, Minnie E. and his 5 year old son Gerald (1934-2017) occupied part of the house on Claude Road and were not injured in the bombing. Gilbert is buried in Southern Cemetery in grave S 4221 of the Church of England section alongside his son, Peter, who sadly died on 4th April, 1940, in his first year of life, adding more tragedy to the Medlicott family.



William Alexander Medlicott (1887-1960)

William A. Medlicott married Mary E. Schreiber and together they had three children: Edward (1911-1998), Zaidie (1913-1994) and Henry (1913-1964). The family resided in Birkenhead, Cheshire, Wales. He is recorded as having two service entries: *British Army, Private, service no. 302447 — Manchester Regiment and British Army, Private, service no. 31264 — Border Regiment*.







No other information is available concerning his service in WWI.

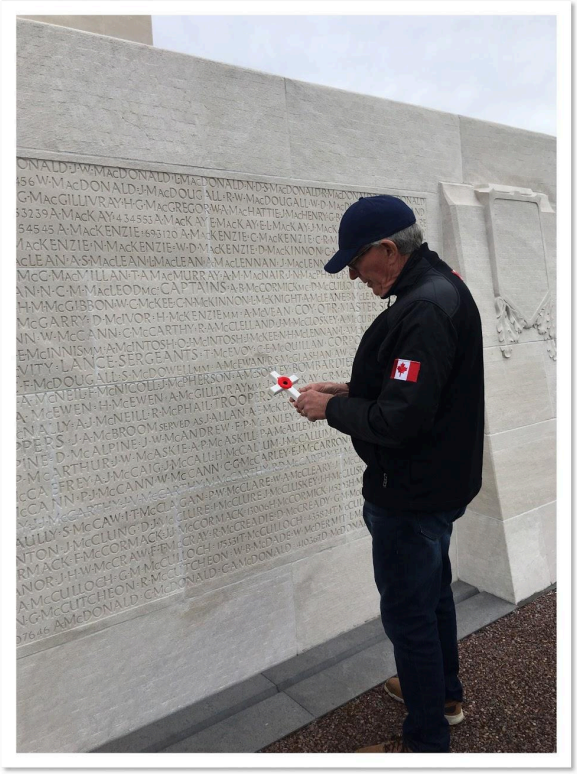
An interesting family sidebar is that his son Edward married Elsie Huddert (1910-2001) and the couple developed a close relationship with his cousin Norman and his wife Rose Medlicott, my wife's parents and the two couples visited one another both in Canada and the UK and were affectionately referred to by the Medlicott family in Canada as "Eddy and Elsie".

We fondly recall their visits to Canada from "over the pond."

Epilogue:

I have always enjoyed reading about history and more recently, I became fascinated with the history of WWI. This was prompted by the discovery of numerous photographs of my wife's grandfather and great uncle, Thomas and Edward Medlicott, who were members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and who served gallantly overseas in the Great War. Intrigued by these discoveries, I investigated further into their military service during the Great War, as I felt compelled to tell their story and preserve for future generations this important part of the Medlicott family history

Most recently, I had occasion to travel to France and Belgium and visited the Vimy Ridge Canadian War Memorial and famous WWI landmarks and cemeteries including familiar places or names like Ypres, Passchendaele and the infamous Hill 60 among many others.

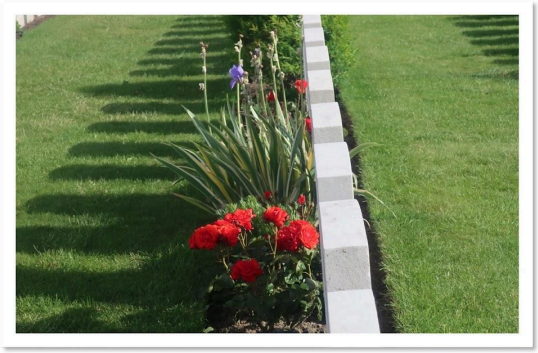




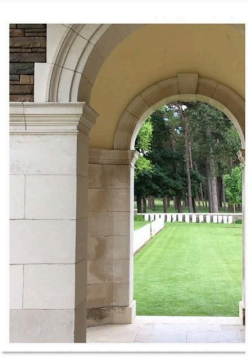
This evoked an even greater interest and passion in this remarkable chapter of our world history. And more importantly, I came away with a much greater appreciation of the sacrifice made by these young heroes.

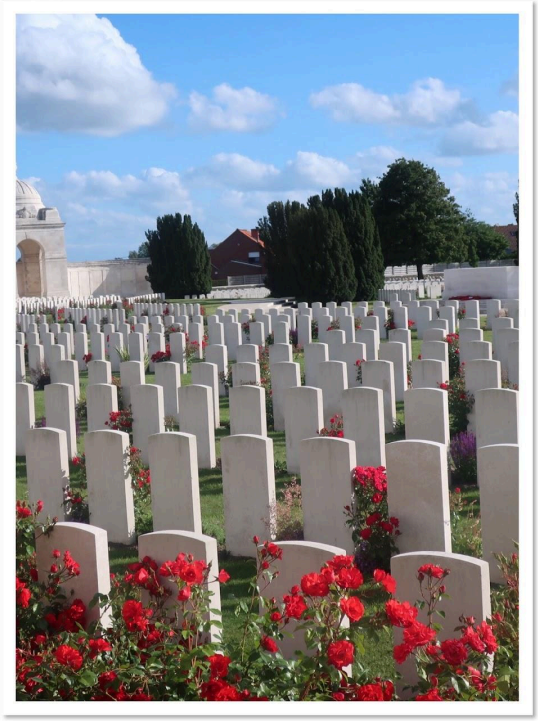
As one walks among the numerous war cemeteries which dot the landscape in France and Belgium, one is struck by the enormity of the loss of life occasioned by this war.

As one examines the historical records, it is quite astonishing to observe the thousands of young men who heeded the patriotic call, served their country and for many, lost their lives, often in a nameless place and for an uncertain cause, far away from home and their families.













The contribution of the Five Medlicott brothers to the war effort and their dedication and commitment to serve their country should not be forgotten with the passage of time but should always be remembered.

My hope is that the treatise will form a permanent record for the future generations of the Medlicott family members as a testament of the valuable contribution and unselfish sacrifice made by their predecessors for our continued freedom.

Lest We Forget!

William J Anhorn K.C. ICD.D