

# A Face For Patrick Raymond Arsenault

by Daria Valkenburg



Photo Patrick Raymond Arsenault in 1916 in Summerside. (Photo courtesy of Paul Arsenault collection)

For the past year, Pieter Valkenburg, Branch Service Officer of the Royal Canadian Legion Borden-Carleton Branch, has been researching the names on the Legion's Cenotaph. With the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI coming up in 2018, Valkenburg hopes to have a Wall of Remembrance in the Legion with the photos of the men listed on the Cenotaph who died during WWI.

Private Patrick Raymond Arsenault, a farmer before the war, who

was born in Bedeque on October 14, 1896 to Joseph Arsenault and Isabella nee Richard, is one of the names on the Cenotaph.

One of the two men on the Cenotaph whose names are on the Vimy Memorial in France, his story was told in this newspaper and other media as part of the commemoration for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Unfortunately, up to that time, no family had been found, and no photo was available.

Arsenault enlisted in 105th Battalion, C Company on April 28, 1916, and sailed from Halifax on the SS Empress of

Britain on July 15, 1916, arriving in Liverpool 10 days later. He was sent to France on December 7, 1916 as part of the 14th Battalion. On January 15, 1917, he was transferred to the 13th Machine Gun Company, a unit attached to the First Canadian Division, and whose role was to support the Infantry Brigades. He died on the first day of the battle, April 9, 1917. His body was never recovered.

Paul Arsenault of Borden-Carleton, great-great-nephew of Arsenault, contacted Valkenburg to say he had a photo of his great-great-uncle after his aunt, Eileen Perry, showed him an article about Arsenault in the County Line Courier.



Photo: Paul Arsenault with a photo of Patrick Raymond Arsenault. (Photo credit: Pieter Valkenburg)

Benjamin Murray Buxton, whose name is listed on Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. Before WWI broke out, he was a teacher and the principal of Cape Traverse School. In 1915 he became a school inspector in West Prince." Does anyone have school photos or yearbooks from that period? Are there photos of school inspectors?

If you can help, please email Valkenburg at dariadv@yahoo.ca or visit the project's blog at https://bordencarletonresearchproject.wordpress.com.

"I found the photo in a chest that my mother Noreen had saved from her mother," noted Arsenault. Noreen and Eileen are the granddaughters of Private Arsenault's sister Mary Ethel Gaudet.

Valkenburg still needs help in order to put a face and story to every name. "I'm actively searching for a photo of Charles

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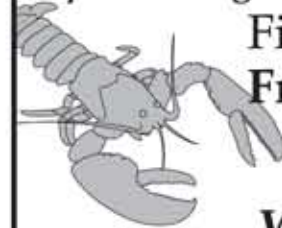
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