**How to Research a Canadian Soldier of the First World War**

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| ***Find all the important details you need to complete your research at the following website:***  http://regimentalrogue.com/misc/researching\_first\_world\_war\_soldiers\_part1.htm |

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| Part 1 – Enlistment |

**Step 1:** Find your soldier on the Library and Archives (LAC) site and/or the Canadian Virtual War Memorial **(Part 1 on Regimental Rogue website)**

1. Record their **date of enlistment**
2. Record their **date of birth**
3. Print off their “**Attestation Paper**” or “**Military Service Act 1917**”

Canadian soldiers' service records for the First World War are held by the [**Library and Archives Canada**](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html) (LAC). For researching soldiers of the First World War, the place to start is the [**Soldiers of the First World War (1914-1918)**](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx) database. You can access that here:

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>

Using the [**search form**](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx), look for your soldier by name. Unique or rare combinations of surname and given names will be rather easy to find in the database, for example, there's only one man named "[**Gladiator**](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=420118)." For more common names a little more effort may be required, in contrast to the lone Gladiator there are 6955 entries for the surname "Smith" and 676 of those have the given name "John." Use full given names to search when known, or use initials with an asterisk "J\*" if the initial is known but it is not certain what the given name is, or how it might have been entered on the soldier's Attestation Papers (ex. "J\*" for John, Jean, Jack).

If you still can’t find your soldier, try alternative surname spellings. Not all men were literate and the forms were often filled out by officers or clerks who did their best, but may not have gotten it right. This can be as simple as mixing up "Mc" and "Mac" or as complex as a semi-phonetic spelling of an Eastern European surname.

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| Part 2 – Casualty Information |

**Step 1:** Go to the **Canadian Virtual War Memorial** site, managed by Veteran Affairs:

http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial

Use the search form to find your soldier’s online memorial

1. Record their **Rank, Service Number, and Unit**

* *Their specific unit can be found beside their name inside the Book of Remembrance****. You need the specific unit!*** Ex., 29th Battalion, British Columbia Regiment

1. Record their **Date of Death** and **Age**
2. Record the cemetery where their remains are buried
3. **Print off** **their page in the *First World War Book of Remembrance***

**Step 2**: Find & print off the “**Circumstances of Death” record** for your soldier **(Part 5 on Regimental Rogue website)**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.02-e.php?&q2=28&interval=50&sk=0&&PHPSESSID=028f5r8mogpo7mf2v8hjq5qmo2>

***How to find your soldier in these archives:***

In late 2011, a little known collection of files called the “Particulars of Death forms” were made available online in a digitized form - [**Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War**](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.02-e.php?&q2=28&interval=50&sk=0&&PHPSESSID=028f5r8mogpo7mf2v8hjq5qmo2). These documents are assembled in collections of images by file contents. Each collection of images has many alphabetized individual records. First, select the right binder (using the table below). Then, apply a Hot/Cold method for jumping around the pages in the document until you find your soldier. There are hundreds of alphabetized pages in each binder so you the best way to do this is to actually just enter in page numbers. Start with large gaps (400, 100, 200) and then narrow down (250, 230, 240). Each soldier takes up about 2 pages, so it’s a safe bet to skip in twos. See the table below the following figures for the first surname in each file.

| **Serial** | **File number** | **First Surname in File** |  | **Serial** | **File number** | **First Surname in File** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | 31829\_B016711 | Aaron |  | **48** | 31829\_B034748 | Hesch |
| **2** | 31829\_B016712 | Alexander |  | **49** | 31829\_B016746 | Hoffman |
| **3** | 31829\_B016713 | Anciello |  | **50** | 31829\_B016693 | Horan |
| **4** | 31829\_B016714 | Armstrong |  | **51** | 31829\_B016697 | Hunking |
| **5** | 31829\_B016715 | Babb |  | **52** | 31829\_B016696 | Ibbetson |
| **6** | 31829\_B016716 | Bark |  | **53** | 31829\_B016709 | Jacks |
| **7** | 31829\_B016717 | Bea |  | **54** | 31829\_B016695 | Johannesson |
| **8** | 31829\_B016718 | Bell |  | **55** | 31829\_B016692 | Joiner |
| **9** | 31829\_B016719 | Bernard |  | **56** | 31829\_B016705 | Kachina |
| **10** | 31829\_B034746 | Birch |  | **57** | 31829\_B016699 | Kennedy |
| **11** | 31829\_B016720 | Binyon |  | **58** | 31829\_B016698 | Kingham |
| **12** | 31829\_B016721 | Borden |  | **59** | 31829\_B016702 | Labarge |
| **13** | 31829\_B016722 | Brabant |  | **60** | 31829\_B016747 | Lariviere |
| **14** | 31829\_B016723 | Broad |  | **61** | 31829\_B016748 | Leach |
| **15** | 31829\_B016724 | Brubacher |  | **62** | 31829\_B016749 | Lesperance |
| **16** | 31829\_B016725 | Burbank |  | **63** | 31829\_B016750 | Little |
| **17** | 31829\_B016726 | Cabana |  | **64** | 31829\_B016751 | Losey |
| **18** | 31829\_B016727 | Canavan |  | **65** | 31829\_B016752 | Mabee |
| **19** | 31829\_B016728 | Catchpole |  | **66** | 31829\_B016753 | Manseau |
| **20** | 31829\_B016729 | Children |  | **67** | 31829\_B016754 | Mathie |
| **21** | 31829\_B016730 | Cleal |  | **68** | 31829\_B016772 | Mee |
| **22** | 31829\_B016731 | Connor |  | **69** | 31829\_B016771 | Millar |
| **23** | 31829\_B016732 | Corcoran |  | **70** | 31829\_B016755 | Miron |
| **24** | 31829\_B016733 | Crabb |  | **71** | 31829\_B016756 | Moorhouse |
| **25** | 31829\_B016734 | Crossley |  | **72** | 31829\_B016757 | Mossman |
| **26** | 31829\_B016735 | Dack |  | **73** | 31829\_B016708 | MacAlpine |
| **27** | 31829\_B016736 | Davy |  | **74** | 31829\_B016758 | MacNaughton |
| **28** | 31829\_B016737 | Deuel |  | **75** | 31829\_B016759 | McCombs |
| **29** | 31829\_B016738 | Don |  | **76** | 31829\_B016760 | McDonaugh |
| **30** | 31829\_B016739 | Duane |  | **77** | 31829\_B016761 | McIntyre |
| **31** | 31829\_B016740 | Ead |  | **78** | 31829\_B016762 | McLachlan |
| **32** | 31829\_B016741 | Ellis |  | **79** | 31829\_B016763 | McNab |
| **33** | 31829\_B016742 | Facer |  | **80** | 31829\_B016764 | Naden |
| **34** | 31829\_B016743 | Fight |  | **81** | 31829\_B016765 | Nicholson |
| **35** | 31829\_B016744 | Foden |  | **82** | 31829\_B016766 | Oag |
| **36** | 31829\_B016694 | Frayn |  | **83** | 31829\_B016767 | Pacey |
| **37** | 31829\_B016691 | Gabbott |  | **84** | 31829\_B016768 | Paul |
| **38** | 31829\_B016690 | Gaskell |  | **85** | 31829\_B016710 | Phair |
| **39** | 31829\_B016689 | Gidony |  | **86** | 31829\_B016769 | Polley |
| **40** | 31829\_B016686 | Godin |  | **87** | 31829\_B016707 | Raaflaub |
| **41** | 31829\_B034747 | Gougeon |  | **88** | 31829\_B016706 | Rehder |
| **42** | 31829\_B016687 | Grayburn |  | **89** | 31829\_B016704 | Richelieu |
| **43** | 31829\_B016688 | Groat |  | **90** | 31829\_B034749 | Rodolph |
| **44** | 31829\_B016684 | Hall |  | **91** | 31829\_B016703 | Rowland |
| **45** | 31829\_B016683 | Hannah |  | **92** | 31829\_B016701 | Sabatino |
| **46** | 31829\_B016685 | Harron |  | **93** | 31829\_B016700 | Schoumik |
| **47** | 31829\_B016745 | Head |  | **94** | 31829\_B016770 | Shelter to Sims |

**Step 3:** Find and print off the **Commonwealth War Graves Register** for your soldier

Also newly digitized by Library and Archives Canada are their collection of First World War [**Commonwealth War Graves Registers**](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.02-e.php?&q2=27&interval=50&sk=0&&PHPSESSID=028f5r8mogpo7mf2v8hjq5qmo2). With a display organized similar to the Circumstances of Death records, these can provide further information on the burials of individual soldiers. Many of the records are handwritten, whereas the Circumstances of Death records have been typed.

| **Serial** | **File number** | **First Surname in File** |  | **Serial** | **File number** | **First Surname in File** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | 31830\_B016669 | Aaron |  | **51** | 31830\_B016603 | Leachman |
| **2** | 31830\_B016673 | Allanson |  | **52** | 31830\_B016614 | Levings |
| **3** | 31830\_B016674 | Angus |  | **53** | 31830\_B016613 | Lockley |
| **4** | 31830\_B016672 | Aston |  | **54** | 31830\_B016612 | Mabee |
| **5** | 31830\_B016677 | Bakys |  | **55** | 31830\_B016617 | Marsh |
| **6** | 31830\_B016663 | Barry |  | **56** | 31830\_B016616 | Mayall |
| **7** | 31830\_B034750 | Beech |  | **57** | 31830\_B016615 | Miller |
| **8** | 31830\_B016668 | Bernhart |  | **58** | 31830\_B016620 | Moisley |
| **9** | 31830\_B016662 | Bjarnason |  | **59** | 31830\_B016619 | Morphew |
| **10** | 31830\_B016667 | Bolin |  | **60** | 31830\_B016621 | Muirhead |
| **11** | 31830\_B016666 | Bowhay |  | **61** | 31830\_B034752 | McAdam |
| **12** | 31830\_B016665 | Bridge |  | **62** | 31830\_B016618 | McCourt |
| **13** | 31830\_B016671 | Brown, |  | **63** | 31830\_B016622 | McDonnell |
| **14** | 31830\_B016670 | Bulbick |  | **64** | 31830\_B016626 | McIntosh |
| **15** | 31830\_B016591 | Cabana |  | **65** | 31830\_B016625 | McKeogh |
| **16** | 31830\_B016590 | Cannon |  | **66** | 31830\_B016624 | McLennan |
| **17** | 31830\_B016589 | Cavell |  | **67** | 31830\_B016623 | McNaul |
| **18** | 31830\_B016594 | Christo |  | **68** | 31830\_B016630 | Nadeau |
| **19** | 31830\_B016593 | Coburn |  | **69** | 31830\_B016629 | Nicoll |
| **20** | 31830\_B016592 | Cook |  | **70** | 31830\_B016628 | Olliff |
| **21** | 31830\_B016595 | Cottrell |  | **71** | 31830\_B016627 | Paquet |
| **22** | 31830\_B016596 | Cribbes |  | **72** | 31830\_B016633 | Patton |
| **23** | 31830\_B016600 | Dabate |  | **73** | 31830\_B016632 | Perryman |
| **24** | 31830\_B016597 | Day |  | **74** | 31830\_B016631 | Plowman |
| **25** | 31830\_B016599 | Dickins |  | **75** | 31830\_B016635 | Prickett |
| **26** | 31830\_B016598 | Doty |  | **76** | 31830\_B016634 | Rance |
| **27** | 31830\_B016602 | Duncan |  | **77** | 31830\_B016638 | Reiley |
| **28** | 31830\_B016601 | Edworthy |  | **78** | 31830\_B016637 | Roach |
| **29** | 31830\_B016606 | Faber |  | **79** | 31830\_B016636 | Roger |
| **30** | 31830\_B016605 | Finder |  | **80** | 31830\_B016641 | Royal |
| **31** | 31830\_B034751 | Fordyce |  | **81** | 31830\_B016640 | Sauvage |
| **32** | 31830\_B016604 | Fricker |  | **82** | 31830\_B034455 | Sellar |
| **33** | 31830\_B016609 | Gate |  | **83** | 31830\_B016644 | Sholert |
| **34** | 31830\_B016608 | Ginn |  | **84** | 31830\_B016643 | Small |
| **35** | 31830\_B016607 | Goucher |  | **85** | 31830\_B034454 | Smith, Robert |
| **36** | 31830\_B016611 | Greenaway |  | **86** | 31830\_B016642 | Spencer |
| **37** | 31830\_B016610 | Haas |  | **87** | 31830\_B016647 | Stevens |
| **38** | 31830\_B016675 | Hand |  | **88** | 31830\_B016646 | Stracey |
| **39** | 31830\_B016676 | Harvey |  | **89** | 31830\_B016645 | Tabberner |
| **40** | 31830\_B016680 | Helps |  | **90** | 31830\_B016639 | Thomas |
| **41** | 31830\_B034451 | Hill |  | **91** | 31830\_B034453 | Tobias |
| **42** | 31830\_B016679 | Holmes |  | **92** | 31830\_B016649 | Vyse |
| **43** | 31830\_B016678 | Howlett |  | **93** | 31830\_B016656 | Wabanosse |
| **44** | 31830\_B034447 | Hutt |  | **94** | 31830\_B016651 | Ward |
| **45** | 31830\_B016681 | Jameson |  | **95** | 31830\_B016653 | Webber |
| **46** | 31830\_B034450 | Johnston |  | **96** | 31830\_B016654 | White |
| **47** | 31830\_B034449 | Kaar |  | **97** | 31830\_B016655 | Williams |
| **48** | 31830\_B016682 | Kerr |  | **98** | 31830\_B016658 | Wilton |
| **49** | 31830\_B034448 | Knight |  | **99** | 31830\_B016652 | Worster |
| **50** | 31830\_B034452 | Lane |  |  |  |  |

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**My Soldier’s Name:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Surname Given Name(s)**

**Date of Enlistment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Age at Enlistment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rank:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Service Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Unit: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Age at Death: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Place of Death (if given): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**