

Captain George Macintosh Leslie, the 116th Bn and his Colt M1911 Pistol

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“If only this artifact could talk...”

Often, when museum members and members of the public visit The Ontario Regiment (RCAC) Museum in Oshawa, Ontario and explore the hundreds of artifacts on display, they are left humbled and bewildered at the artifacts, stories and memories that so closely link us with our shared history. More often than not, artifacts from historic conflicts and wars past are preserved and displayed to give context and aid in bringing history alive, though identifying and contextualizing individual artifacts to identified soldiers and veterans remains exceptionally rare. On the rare occasion an artifact's history and association to a named and identified Canadian veteran is discovered, it serves to reinforce the human element of their service, sacrifice and duty that has come to symbolize the Canadian military, our veterans, and our shared time of Remembrance.

The Ontario Regiment (RCAC) Museum recently came into possession of one such artifact by way of donation that not only demonstrates the weapons and arms carried by Canadian soldiers into battles past, but also symbolizes an exceptionally sobering and harrowing period of Canadian military history by way of its identification. This artifact, a Colt Government Model M1911 pistol, through its inscription and identification, directly connects us to the men of the 116th Battalion (Bn), Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) who served and fought with distinction the First World War on the Western Front.

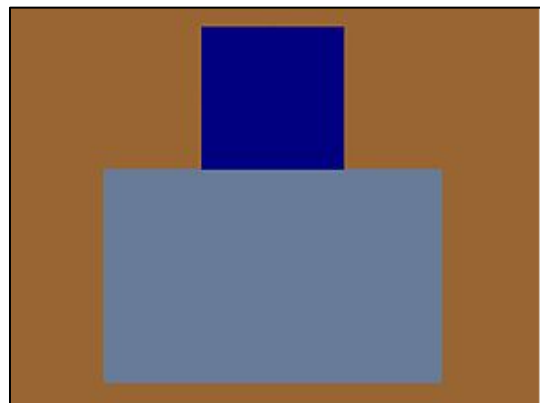


116th Battalion, CEF Cap Badge

116th Battalion – Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)

The Ontario Regiment (RCAC) has a rich and pivotal history spanning the entirety of Canadian history from just before Confederation, with the formation of the “34th Ontario Battalion of Infantry” in 1866. While there have been several reorganizations and formation changes over the years, the Ontario Regiment (RCAC) today perpetuates the Battle Honours of the 116th Bn (CEF), which was authorized on 22 December 1915

The 116th Bn would set sail for England in July of 1916, and during the remainder of 1916 would provide reinforcements for elements of the Canadian Corps in the field, fighting heavily along key sectors of the Western Front in France and Belgium. On 11 February 1917, the 116th Bn disembarked for France, where it fought with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division in France and Belgium until the end of the war, and the battalion's post-war disbandment in 1920.



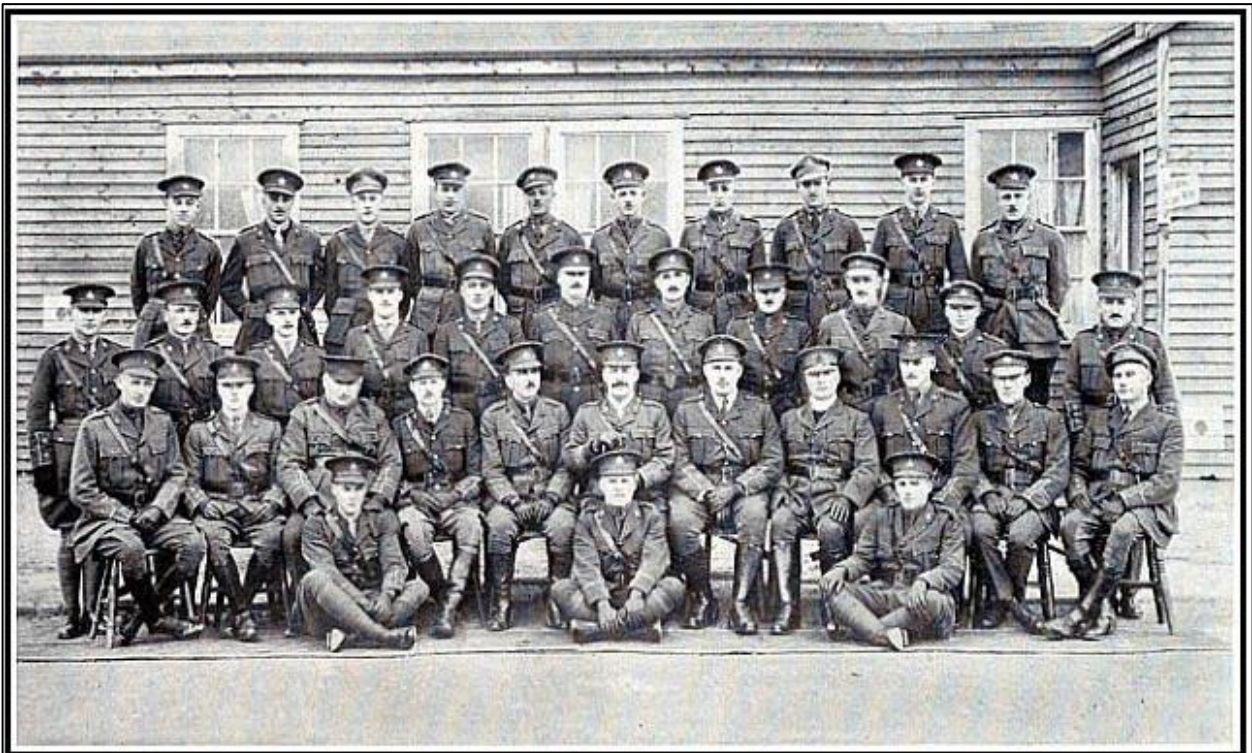
116th Battalion, CEF Distinguishing Patch

By the time the armistice was signed, and the guns fell silent on November 11th, 1918, the 116th Bn had fought valiantly during some of the most pivotal and harrowing engagements of the war, having been awarded the following Battle Honours:

ARRAS, 1917-18
VIMY 1917
HILL 70
YPRES 1917
PASSCHENDAELE
AMIENS
SCARPE, 1918
DROCOURT-QUEANT
HINDENBURG LINE
CANAL DU NORD
CAMBRAI 1918
VALENCIENNES
FRANCE and FLANDERS 1917-18



Previous Guidon of the Ontario Regiment (RCAC). The Battle Honours of the 116th BN, CEF are proudly perpetuated by the Regiment today.



BRAMSHOTT GROUP (1916)

Officers of the 116th Bn, CEF as taken in 1916. Photo from "The 116th Battalion in France". EPS Allen. 1921.

During the First World War, Canadian officers were expected to purchase parts of their own kit and equipment, to at times include sidearms. While regulations did indicate that sidearms and pistols should conform to service ammunition for reasons of practicality for ammunition supply, a variety of pistols were purchased, carried and fielded by CEF officers. One of the more practical pistols often acquired, was the Colt Government Model M1911 pistol, typically chambered for the powerful .45ACP cartridge. The M1911 Government Model pistols represented the pinnacle



Right side view of Capt GM Leslie's Government Model M1911 Pistol. Serial C4881.

of American pistol production during the First World War and were prized possessions among fighting soldiers and officers for their reliability, durability and stopping power.

The artifact recently acquired by the Ontario Regiment (RCAC) Museum is a Colt Government Model M1911, .45 ACP Calibre, semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number C4881. Historic records research indicates that this particular pistol was likely one of the 5000 M1911 pistols ordered by the Government of Canada during the First World War. This particular pistol bears an engraving on the right side of the slide, a commonplace practice amongst Canadian CEF officers during the war:

***Capt. G.M. Leslie
120th Bn CEF***



A review of publicly available First World War service records from Library and Archives Canada, reveals that Captain (Capt) George Macintosh Leslie was born August 10th, 1876, in Hamilton, Ontario. George Leslie's declaration papers further revealed that he was married to Mrs. Annie Esther Leslie and resided in Hamilton and worked as a "Shoe Buyer" upon joining the 120th City of Hamilton Bn, CEF in January of 1916 as Capt Leslie's declaration further indicated that he had prior service with the 13th Royal Regiment, known today as the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI), currently based in Hamilton, Ontario.

Furthermore, service records indicate that Capt Leslie embarked from Halifax to England on August 14th, 1916, aboard the RMS "Empress of Britain", a troop transport ship. The voyage would last approximately ten days, with the RMS "Empress of Britain" arriving on August 24th, 1916.

20th CITY OF HAMILTON, BN. C.E.F. **ORIGINAL**

Unit: _____ Rank: *capt.* Name: *Leslie, George Macintosh*

OFFICERS' DECLARATION PAPER.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY OFFICER.

(ANSWERS.)

- (a) What is your Surname? *Leslie*
- (b) What are your Christian Names? *George Macintosh*
- (a) Where were you born? (State place and country) *Hamilton Ontario Canada*
- (b) What is your present address? *69 Main St. W. Hamilton, Ont.*
- What is the date of your birth? *August 10, 1876*
- What is (a) the name of your next-of-kin? *Alma Leslie*
(b) the address of your next-of-kin? *69 Main St. W. Hamilton, Ont.*
(c) the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Wife*
- What is your profession or occupation? *Shoe Buyer*
- What is your religion? *Anglican*
- Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *Yes*
- To what Unit of the Active Militia do you belong? *13th Royal Regiment*
- State particulars of any former Military Service: *Nil.*
- Are you willing to serve in the
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

The undersigned hereby declares that the above answers made by him to the above questions are true.

G.M. Leslie (Signature of Officer.)

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Officer in accordance with the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him *Fit* for the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Date: *Jan 5 1916*

Place: *Hamilton*

Signature: *J.D. [illegible] Capt.*

M. F. W. 51.
20th-1916.
H. G. 1175-20-101.

A Copy of Captain George Leslie's Officers Declaration with the 120th Bn, CEF. 1916. Library and Archives Canada.

Below: RMS Empress of Britain. First World War Troop Transport. Capt Leslie sailed aboard the RMS Empress of Britain from Canada to England in 1916.



CERTIFIED CORRECT
 22 OCT 1947
 CANADIAN RECORD OFFICE

Fill in Only.—Unit, Number, Rank and Name.

M. F. W. 54. (A. F. B. 103.)
 250st.—1-18.
 H. Q. 1772-39-920.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Unit, Regiment or Corps. 120th CITY OF HAMILTON, Bn. C.E.F.

Regimental No. 23-922. Rank Captain Name Leslie George MacIntosh

Enlisted (a) 1-12-15 Terms of Service (a) 20.8.17 Date of appointment to lance rank } Numerical position on roll of N. C. Os. }

Date of promotion to present rank. 20.8.17

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

Report Date 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.

EB 1 1917 120th Bn. Transferred to 2nd Reserve Bramshott Part 2 D.O. 32

4.2.17. 2nd Res. Taken on strength of 2nd. Reserve Bn. C.E.F. Bramshott 1.2.17. Part 2 D.O. 17.

24-9-17 2nd Res. Reverts to rank of Lieutenant to meet establishment W. Sandling 24-9-17 Pt. 2 D.O. # 2489

24-9-17 2nd Res. Proceeded overseas for Service with 16th Bn. W. Sandling 24-9-17 Pt. 2 D.O. # 2489

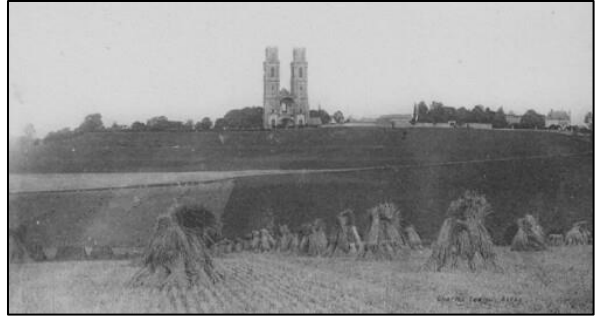
FREEDERICK W. SANDLING CAPT. ADJUTANT 2ND CANADIAN RESERVE BATTALION

(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.

War Service Badge Class "A" No.

A Copy of Captain George Leslie's Active Service Casualty Form, which indicates his transfer from the 120th BN to the 2nd Reserve Bn, finally to the 116th Bn in 1917. Library and Archives Canada.

Upon Lt Leslie's arrival in France in September of 1917, war diary records indicate that the 116th Battalion had on strength 30 Officers, 669 "other ranks" and was temporarily stationed at Fraser Camp, Mont St Eloi, north of Arras, France. Following heavy fighting around St Eloi in 1914 and 1915, the British established billets in the area of Mont St Eloi in 1916, which included medical facilities, gun sites and a Royal Flying Corps aerodrome. Mont St Eloi would service as a staging point for Allied forces in the later part of World War One.



Mont St Eloi, Arras, France

Lieutenant Leslie's time with the 116th Battalion during the latter part of September 1917 and the early part of October 1917 would have certainly been spent in training, with notable battalion war diary entries indicating training at both the Platoon and Company levels being conducted from September 24th to the 28th. Further battalion training records indicate that the Battalion was involved in Lewis gun, rifle and trench training from October 1st – 10th, 1917.

During the fall of 1917, war on the western front had largely stagnated into a war of attrition, with massive trench networks, earth shattering artillery bombardments of both deadly shrapnel and gas, and machine gun and sniper fire coming to symbolize and characterize the terror. In addition to the dangers of enemy combat action, disease, stagnation and torrential rains led to the buildup of crippling mud, which often swallowed men alive.



The Mud of Ypres. Fall 1917.

Hundreds of thousands of British, Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) troops had attempted to take German positions in the Ypres salient in Belgium in the summer of 1917 unsuccessfully through a series of offensive operations. That summer, nearly 70,000 Allied casualties were sustained during assaults on prepared German positions in the area of Ypres, Belgium. The Canadians were ordered to prepare for the assault in the area of Passchendaele, which for months had been heavily defended by the German military. The late fall rains and weather had further turned the battlefield to man-swallowing, stagnating mud. Further complicating matters were heavy artillery bombardments had reportedly turned up the corpses of fallen soldiers across the battlefield, further spreading disease and challenging mobility.

In Come the Canadians, the 116th Bn & Lt Leslie

The Four divisions of the 100,000 strong Canadian Corps were moved from France to the area of the Ypres Salient in Belgium in October of 1917, under the orders of Lieutenant General Arthur Currie. Under protest to higher command, General Currie and the officers of the Canadian Corps prepared for the assault along the line, estimating they would sustain approximately 16,000 casualties.

War diary records of the 116th Bn indicate that on October 11th, 1917, the battalion left Fraser Camp and marched to Ourton. Further movement from Ourton to Godewaersvelde took place in the coming days, with the battalion arriving at approximately 20:00 hrs on October 15th, whereby they were marched to billets at Caestre. During the 17th-20th of October, the company and platoon were again involved in training, while Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) visited a model at Poperhinghe, while some officers reportedly “went forward and looked over (sic) front line”.



Canadian Soldiers in the mud. Passchendaele. Fall 1917.

Preparations for the major Canadian assault in the area of Passchendaele were well underway during this time, and almost certainly Lt Leslie would have been scouring maps, reviewing any available aerial imagery, consulting with fellow officers and preparing his battle plan. During this time, 116th Bn records further indicate that the Battalion proceeded to X Camp, Wieltje area to occupy billets vacated by the 58th Bn. On October 23rd, officers and NCOs again went forward to the Banks Farm area to reconnoitre locations and billeting positions. The entire battalion during this time engaged in working parties, likely bringing forward stretchers, ammunition, rations, cleaning weapons, preparing equipment and assisting in the fortification of their positions and launching areas. Soldiers during this time would have attempted to rest and sleep as much as possible, write letters home and eat if possible though the continuing rain, heavy German shelling and unending work would have made this all very difficult.



Left side view of Capt (Lt) Leslie's pistol. This pistol was almost certainly with him during the offensive operations of 1917.

The war diary records indicate that on October 25th, 1917, the battalion moved into the Bank Farm area, with Bn HQ at Pommern Castle. Elements of A Company of the 116th Bn at this time reinforced the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade (C.I.B.).

On October 26th, 1917, the brigade went “over the top” and attacked German positions at approximately 05:40 hrs. War Records and excerpts from “The 116th Battalion in France” reveal the following:

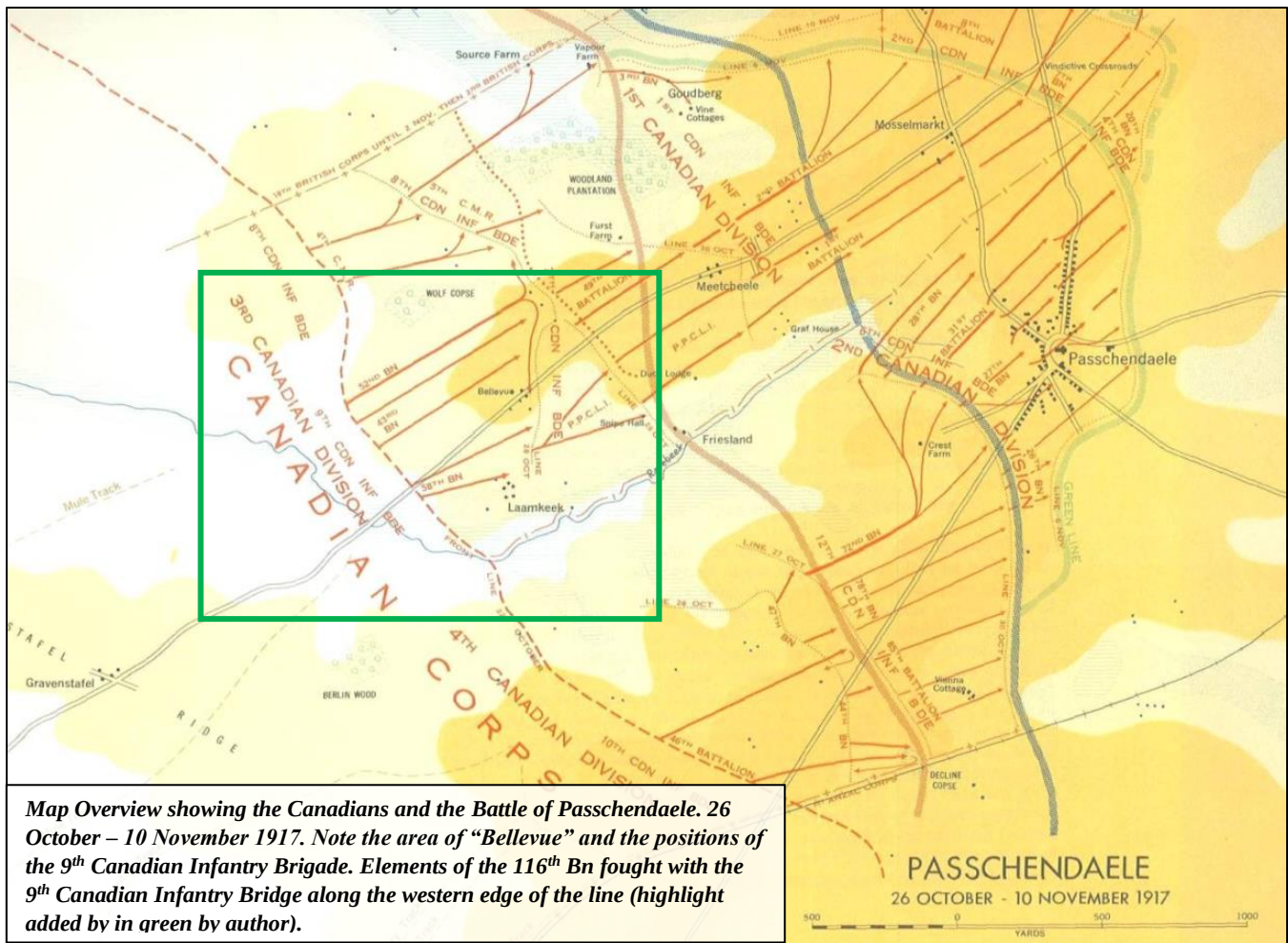
“26th. Banks Farm. Brigade attacked at 5:40 a.m. in conjunction with troops of the Canadian Corps. Two Companies, “A” and “D” moved forward to support in Abraham Heights in accordance with orders from 9th C.I.B., and at 10:00 p.m., were ordered to move into close support “A” Company moving into the left sector, and “D” Company less two Platoons moving into the right center. Lieut. Irwin and 75 other ranks from “B” Company detailed to report at 10th Field Ambulance to act as stretcher bearers, also party to report to 9th C.I.B., of one Officer and 50 other ranks from “A” Company. Casualties: 2 other ranks killed and 10 other ranks wounded. Strength 35 officers, 735 other ranks.

27th. In the Line: In accordance with orders received from 9th C.I.B. Balance of Battalion, and H.Q. moved to Otto farm Area with H.Q. at Otto Farm, and Companies on Abraham Heights. At 3:00 p.m. Battalion was ordered to take over front line from 43rd, 52nd, and 58th Battalions, with four Companies in the front line, running from left to right in order “A”, “B”, “C” and “D” and with Headquarters at Waterloo. Prior to the relief, the full Companies of “A” and “D” had been carrying bombs and S.A.A. from the dump to the Companies in the line. At night two Platoons of “C” Company under Lieut. Soper, were detailed as stretcher-bearers. Casualties: 6 other ranks killed, 5 other ranks wounded.

28th. In the Line: Working parties supplied. On the night of the 28th and 29th the 116th Battalion was relieved in the front line by the 49th Canadian Battalion, and one Company of the P.P.C.L. I’s moving to Weiltje Area, near Ypres, with Battalion H.Q. at C.29.1.5.7. Casualties: Lieut. R.W. Biggar and 16 other ranks wounded, **5 other ranks gassed.**

29th. Weiltje Area. Working parties supplied, Casualties: 4 other ranks killed, 5 other ranks wounded.

30th. Working parties supplied casualties 2 other ranks killed.”



“Operations in front of Ypres had reached a deadlock. The troops engaged, consisting chiefly of Australians and New Zealanders, had advanced nearly three miles under conditions that must have been almost heartbreaking. It had poured with rain every day; the mud was well over their knees, and they were enfiladed from both sides by the German artillery, until finally, they were brought to a halt on the top of Abraham Heights through sheer exhaustion and heavy casualties. The German defences on this front consisted chiefly of “Pill Boxes”—oblong, concrete constructions, made out of Portland cement (?) and divided into several compartments with small, narrow entrances either at the side or back.

The average head protection in one of these was from four to five feet of solid concrete, and our field artillery shells would bounce off them like tennis balls off the sidewalk.

As soon as the shelling ceased, out would come “Mr. Bosch” with his machine guns, and from selected positions play havoc amongst our troops, floundering around in the mud. Once in a while a twelve-inch “how.” would make a direct hit on one of these hornets’ nests and then, of course, Fritz would stay in there never to come out again. But a twenty-five-foot target at a range of ten miles is a difficult one to hit, and the majority of the “pill boxes” were captured by hand-to-hand fighting.

The ground seemed to be composed of an endless series of ridges, and you no sooner reached the top of one ridge than another more formidable loomed up in front.

*From Abraham Heights the **Bellevue Spur** (another name for a ridge) dotted here and there with “pill boxes,” stood out like a sentinel keeping watch over the village of Passchendaele in the distance, and it was plain to all around that fresh and experienced troops would be needed at this point to effect its capture. There was perhaps no Corps on the Western front at that time*

more capable of undertaking this difficult task, or as numerically strong, as the Canadian Corps, and that is the reason we ate corn at Caestre instead of hunting the Hun around Lens.



Canadian Soldiers examine a German Pillbox. Passchendaele. Fall 1917. These pillboxes would come to characterize the German positions along the high ground at Bellevue Spur.

Two more days’ rest were given us to digest this news, and to enable parties to visit the area of desolation and gloom which was to be the scene of our future endeavours. Orders were then received to entrain for Ypres, and our arrival at that historic ruin was greeted by many cheers from the outgoing Australian units. From all they told us or rather shouted at us as they crowded into the train we had just left, we began to realize that we were not going to enjoy ourselves quite so much as we thought. “Go to it, yer blighters,” they yelled, and away we went. Having occupied several “Camps” in the neighborhood of Wieltje, the 9th Brigade, with the 116th Battalion in support, attacked the Bellevue Spur on the morning of October 26th, and by the morning of the 27th, after one of the fiercest and most bloody onslaughts in its history, succeeded in destroying the entire German garrison.

On the evening of the 27th the 116th Battalion took over the front line from the remnants of the Brigade, remaining there until relieved by the 49th Battalion (7th Brigade)—during the early hours of the 29th October.”¹

¹ Excerpts from 116th Battalion in France. EPS Allen. 1921.

A further review of Lt Leslie's service records confirm that he was with the 116th Battalion during these fateful days, undoubtedly leading his troops from the front in the assault on German positions along the high ground at Bellevue Spur.

Notably, casualty records indicate that Lt Leslie had been "gassed at Bellevue Height on Oct. 27th, 28th and 29/17". Having sustained significant internal wounds as a result of being gassed, records reveal he suffered from vomiting and "violent attacks of coughing". The effects of German gas would afflict Lt Leslie for the remainder of his life. Anecdotal information indicates that the German artillery attempted to delay or halt the Canadian advance with barrages of both shrapnel and mustard gas during this time.

Discharge Book.	Lieut.	LESLIE,	G.M.
Year 1918	Unit.		Age.
	C.O.R.D.		28 Months
Station and Date.	Disease	GASTRALGIA	
1660X.	April 4th, 1918.		
Walloch Bath	Complaints -	Weakness, tenderness in right side of	
3-4-18		epigastric region - <i>Point - May 7-18.</i>	
	Personal History -	For a long time has had occasional attacks of biliousness which were relieved by a	
		seidlitz powder.	
	Family History -	Negative.	
	Present Illness -	Began Nov. 1st 1917 after being gassed at	
		Bellevue Height on Oct. 27th, 28th and 29/17.	
		Began vomiting Nov. 3rd. Had violent attacks of coughing which brought on retching and	
		vomiting. Vomited if food was taken. No blood.	
		Remained in salient until Nov. 30th with	
		exception of 3 days. About Nov. 7th condition	
		improved. At rest behind lines Nov. 30-Dec. 19th.	
		Back to lines Dec. 19th to Jan. 23rd/18. Left	
		France on leave Feb. 21st. Sent to hospital No.	
		11 C.G.H. - March 6th. Has not vomited since	

A Copy of George Leslie's casualty records, which indicates he was wounded during a German Gas Attack in the area of Bellevue Heights (Spur), in late October 1917 as part of the 116th Battalions contribution to the Canadian Corps assault on Passchendaele. Library and Archives Canada.

Fighting during the assault on Passchendaele and the **Bellevue Spur** was characterized by massive infantry assaults and close quarter, hand-to-hand trench combat. It serves to reason that Lt Leslie, as a junior officer leading his men into combat, would have had with him his Government Model M1911 pistol during these harrowing hours. It is almost certain that he relied upon its portability, reliability and stopping power.

The Canadian Corps would ultimately prove victorious during the assault on Passchendaele, having taken the town and cleared German positions during the first week of November 1917, with the final assault having been carried out on November 10th.



Lt George Leslie.

The gallantry and heroism of the Canadian Corps in Combat was not overlooked, with Nine Victoria Crosses awarded to Canadians after the fighting. “Among the recipients was Winnipeg’s Robert Shankland who on 26 October had led his platoon in capturing a series of German gun emplacements — and holding them against repeated enemy counterattacks — on a critical piece of high ground called **the Bellevue Spur.**”

Lt Leslie remained in combat until November 30th, 1917. He was pulled off the line after the Battle of Passchendaele and would be granted “rest behind the lines” until December 19th, at which point he returned to the front from December 19th, 1917, – January 23rd, 1918. In early March 1918, he was sent to Number 11 Canadian General Hospital in England. Lt Leslie’s medical records reveal that he spent much time in and out of hospitals for medical treatment related to stomach and digestive issues, undoubtedly as a result of his being wounded in combat. He did return to the Battalion and continued to serve until the end of the war, with records indicating he was involved in training other soldiers in 1918 at the “Canadian Corps Gas School”.



GROUP TAKEN AT PERNES (Dec., 1918)

Back Row:—Lt. E. B. Elliott; Lt. G. W. Morgan; Lt. C. R. Hillis (killed in action); Lt. A. L. MacDonald; Lt. H. K. Wood; Lt. F. A. MacGrotty (killed in action); Lt. W. E. Shier; Lt. G. E. Haygarth; Lt. W. A. Orr; Lt. J. B. Quarry; Lt. H. E. Patterson.

Third Row:—Lt. R. W. Soper (killed in action); Lt. J. A. Hughes; Lt. J. A. Proctor (accidentally killed); Lt. W. J. Preston (killed in action); Lt. J. A. Gibson (killed in action); Lt. R. W. Biggar (killed in action); Lt. A. H. Dixon; Lt. J. A. Huggins; Lt. H. R. Williams; **Lt. G. M. Leslie**; Lt. T. A. Irwin; Lt. A. K. Wilson; Lt. T. H. Broad (killed in action).

Second Row:—Capt. Armstrong, C.A.M.C.; Capt. D. Ritchie, O.C. (A Co’y); Actg. Major E. P. S. Allen, O.C. (B Co’y); Major G. R. Pearkes, M. C. (2nd in Command); Lt.-Col. S. S. Sharpe, O.C. (accidentally killed); Capt. A. F. Hind (Adjutant); Capt. H. E. Ruwald, O.C. (C Co’y); Capt. A. W. Baird, O.C. (D Co’y) (killed in action); Capt. N. E. Fairhead (Quartermaster).

Front Row:—Lt. W. A. Dunlop; Lt. L. V. Sutton; Lt. J. H. Hughes, M.C. (Transport Officer); Lt. K. L. Wallace; Lt. H. E. Gee.

Officers of the 116th Battalion. Lt G.M. Leslie is standing in the third row, fourth from the right (Highlight added in yellow by author). Photo believed to be taken in 1917. The names listed above identifies the status of the group taken following Dec. 1918.

Service records further revealed that George Leslie was struck off strength with the 116th Battalion in January 1920. He later died following the war on August 25, 1922, at Brant Military Hospital, in Burlington, Ontario, Canada, from gastritis intestinal adhesion and intestinal obstruction. Directly attributed to his wounds sustained in battle from poison gas. He is buried in Hamilton, Ontario at the Hamilton Cemetery.

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE	
V.V.-2-14. H.C.	Certificate of Service
ISSUED TO OFFICERS AND NURSING SISTERS	
This is to Certify that (Rank)..... <u>Lieutenant</u>	
(Name in full)..... <u>George Macintosh LESLIE</u>	
Enlisted in..... <u>The 120th Battalion</u>	
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, on the..... day of..... <u>1915</u> AND WAS APPOINTED to COMMISSIONED RANK in..... <u>The 120th Battalion</u>	
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE on the..... <u>First</u> day of..... <u>December</u> 1915 .	
HE SERVED in CANADA, <u>England and France with the 120th Battalion.,</u> <u>2nd Reserve Battalion., 116th Battalion., 2nd Central Ontario Regimental</u> <u>Depot., and 5th Reserve Battalion.,</u>	
and was STRUCK OFF THE STRENGTH on the..... <u>Twenty-second</u> day of..... <u>January</u> 1920 by reason of..... <u>General Demobilization</u>	
Dated at Ottawa, this..... <u>Sixth</u> day of..... <u>August</u> 1920	
Reverts from the rank of Captain, 20-6-17, for the purpose of proceeding to France.	
<u>W.D.</u> Capt. for Director of Personal Services.	

M. F. W. 2618a
10a.-5-20
1772-26-1428



Lt George MacIntosh Leslie's tombstone.

"If only this artifact could talk"

Through a careful review of service records and documentation, we are able to add a human face to this artifact and tell its story. While a wartime artifact and firearm are always of interest, a simple two-line inscription allows us invaluable insight into where and when this pistol was used, and most importantly, who carried and trusted their life to it. Though this pistol is one of thousands of arms like it that were carried into battle by men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during those fateful battles in far away lands, the ability to trace its service to Captain George Macintosh Leslie of Hamilton, Ontario, his service with the 116th Battalion and their efforts in one of the most recognizable conflicts of the First World War ensure that this artifact tells a story often unable to be told. The story of a man, a husband, a son, and a Canadian who fought with gallantry and heroism as so many did, ultimately paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Lest We Forget.