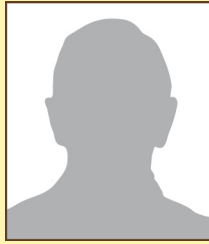




16th Battalion  
Canadian  
Expeditionary Force  
Service No. 28912



Private **GERALD  
HOWARD HOLBROOKE**

Born in Portslade, Sussex  
on 2nd August 1877.

Killed in action near Festubert,  
France  
on 18th May 1915.

Aged 37.

**GERALD HOWARD HOLBROOKE** was born on 2nd August 1877 in Portslade, Sussex, son of the Rev. Frederick George Holbrooke and his wife Barbara Henrietta Louisa Smith. His family moved to Lewisham, London in the late 1870s and again, before 1891, to Kimpton, Hampshire, where Gerald's father was Rector. Gerald went to farm in Winnipeg, Canada in 1909. His father died in 1911 and his mother then lived at Stoke House, Stoke, near Andover. Gerald's sister Mary Holbrooke married Gerald Henry Williams, and they helped manage their son Stephen Leonard Williams' farm in Barton Stacey.

Gerald was younger brother to Gertrude Mary, Winifred Georgina, Helena Barbara, Bernard Frederick Roper, Philip Lancelot, Francis Lyttleton (who died in infancy), Constance Violet, and older brother to Cecil Dacre More.

On the outbreak of war he enlisted on 7th September 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec, into the 16th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). The battalion became a unit in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade.

During the battle of Ypres the 1st British Army had suffered 11,000 casualties. A further push, involving several Canadian brigades including the 3rd, was ordered. The ensuing battle, near the village of Festubert, consisted of several frontal assaults lasting a week. Small gains were made at the expense of 2,468 casualties.

Gerald Howard Holbrooke was killed in this action and was buried near where he fell at Festubert. His name is recorded on the Vimy Memorial.

## VIMY MEMORIAL



Early in the Battle of Arras on 9th April 1917, the Canadian Corps scored a tactical victory in the capture of the Vimy Ridge.

After the war, the highest point of the ridge was chosen as the site for the Vimy Memorial to all Canadians who served their country in the Great War. It contains the 71,000 who fell in France including 11,000 who have no known grave.