

**Long Biography for  
Private Charles Ellis  
Gregg Centre Teacher's Tour  
War and the Canadian Experience – France and Flanders  
July 2017**

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## **Charles Ellis - Gone - In an instant of Mud and Blast in a Charge in the Dark April 22-23, 1915**

### **Reflection and Introduction**

Charles Ellis probably never saw it coming. He probably never even knew that it happened. The blast from the artillery shell likely enveloped him, sucking his life force from his temporal body into the spiritual plane of which he, like so many then, professed to believe. His body was likely torn apart and instantly seeded the mud upon which he stood. His temporal body, possibly already wracked with the pestilence of poison gas, was never found, his grave was never marked, and his name, joined that of so many like him, on the Menin Gate, where those who could not be found are remembered. In an instant of mud and blast he was, and then he was not.

That is the best outcome. Perhaps instead, it was a long and lingering death as he lay writhing, alone, but surrounded by others, gas filling his lungs, his body riddled with Mauser or Maxim bullets on the gently sloping rise to the Bois de Cuisinieres or Kitcheners Wood or perhaps within the wood itself. Perhaps, it was only later, when the two sides contested the same ground and pounded it with shell after shell after shell that his body, and breath, finally and thankfully parted company and his body returned to the earth from which it had come and his spirit floated up to his maker.

We will never know exactly how Charles Ellis left his two sisters, his friends, perhaps a lover, and ultimately us. We do know that he was a Railroad man from England, living in Manitoba, that he answered the call like so many did and that he died like so many did. In that, we can be fairly sure, unless he secreted himself away, as he had done before. But let us not assume that less noble end, for though we are all just carbon based creatures surviving on a watery planet, let us hope, as many of them hoped, that there was a higher purpose and an afterlife for those who strove for it. Let us hope that Charles Ellis stayed resolute until his end and that his end came quickly. For death in battle, unlike a car accident, may be stupid, ill conceived, negligent, wasteful, and unnecessary but it is never meaningless. This is so because contrary to the hopeful wishes of many, wars will be fought whether the “good side” wants it or not, because that is the nature of human kind and it remains ever true, that good men must die so that others may live. It is that sacrifice that Charles Ellis made on either the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1915 near Kitchener’s Woods, not far from St. Julian in Belgium but a great distance from Winnipeg Manitoba.

### **Personal Information**

Charles Ellis was born September 19, 1894 in Stockton on Tees, England. Stockton on Tees is a market town in County Durham close to Yorkshire and just south of Scotland. He was the son of Charles Ellis and June Underwood.<sup>1</sup> On enlistment, he confirmed that he was a Presbyterian, although it could be Church of England, attention to detail in filling out his enlistment forms being somewhat lacking. His birthplace near the Scottish Border, the bastion of Presbyterians, would make either plausible.

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<sup>1</sup> Personnel record of Charles Ellis.

<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B2880-S020>

At some point Ellis, and his sister, Bertha immigrated to Canada. He spent some time in Ontario, as he is recorded to have served in the 78<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry in Meaford, Ontario. There are a large number of Ellis names recorded in the Lakeview Cemetery for Meaford.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, there could have been other relatives who immigrated there at or about the same time. It would appear that he and his sister then moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Bertha lived with her husband.

On August 14, 1914, Ellis enlisted in the 106<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Winnipeg Rifles at the age of 19 years 11 months but was then transferred with others from Winnipeg to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was composed of soldiers from Calgary and Winnipeg.<sup>3</sup> He was 5 foot 5 inches tall with blue eyes and brown hair. He had a girth of 34 inches, which would have likely made him stocky although no photographs are available to confirm that inference. He had been vaccinated.

His record would indicate that he was largely unremarkable, except for one absence without leave in November resulting in stoppage of pay and one other, likely somewhat serious, infraction in January 2015 that led to stoppage of pay and field punishment for 10 days. Hence the concern above, that perhaps he had not died but rather voted with his feet.

He was a private and his Regimental number is 20611. He was assigned to C Company of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was enlisted in the Overseas Expeditionary Force on September 24, 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec and sailed for England on October, 3, 1914.

After training briefly in England, he arrived in France in March of 1915. He was reported missing, presumed dead, on April 22, 1915. It was at 2345 on that fateful night that the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, together with the Kilties of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion made the desperate counter-attack at Kitchener's Wood and almost the entirety of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion was wiped out. Ellis died at age 21, having been in Flanders for only two months and in what would appear to be his first and only battle.

He left behind two sisters. His one sister Mrs. Bertha E. Lambert of 289 Colony Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, received his Memorial Cross. His other sister, Miss K. Ellis, of 25 Colnbrooke Street, St. Georges – Southmark London, who was unmarried and thus more likely in need of support, received contributions from his pay.<sup>4</sup>

He is remembered, in Ypres, Belgium at Menin Gate Panel 24-28-30.<sup>5</sup>

### C. Ellis

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<sup>2</sup><http://geneofun.on.ca/cems//ONGRY11045/E?PHPSESSID=cbc00b947267d617cb4abc799379a255&filter=ellis>

<sup>3</sup> Personal Record.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. See also: <https://goo.gl/images/a7i5PB>



There is some confusion in Ellis's records as to which Brigade the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in. It is referred to above as being in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade but his own records show references to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion being in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in one place and 2<sup>nd</sup> in another. Given that Brigades in 1915 were composed of 4 Battalions per brigade, numerically the 10<sup>th</sup> would have been in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade however, upon departing to France in February of 1915, the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Battalions were left behind to augment another division.<sup>7</sup> On the basis that 2 Battalions in prior order to the 10<sup>th</sup> were left out of battle, it is possible that the 10<sup>th</sup> would slip from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion upon embarking for France. However, Tim Cook places the 10<sup>th</sup> in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> did engage with General Richard Turner's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. That said, even Turner does not seem clear about whether the 10<sup>th</sup> were in his brigade to begin with. In his papers, he indicates that the 10<sup>th</sup> were in Divisional Reserve and assigned to him only on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>8</sup> The Diary of Operations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, 22 April to 5 May 1915, would tend to support this view as it is noted: "At about 8 p.m. advice was received that the 16<sup>th</sup> BN, which had been in Divisional Reserve as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Bde was placed under orders of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Bde."<sup>9</sup> It would seem then that the 10<sup>th</sup> started in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, moved to the second, sent to Divisional Reserve but then was deployed and put under orders of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade to launch the counter attack. Additional references, including Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson put the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.<sup>10</sup>

In any event, to orient the ground, it would appear that on April 22, 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division was holding part of the Ypres salient, a bulge in the Allied lines, "...with the 28<sup>th</sup> British Division on the right and the 45<sup>th</sup> Algerian Division on the left."<sup>11</sup> General Richard Turner VC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade was on the left, General Arthur Currie's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade on the right and General Malcom Mercer's 1 Brigade was in reserve. Tim Cook identifies the Battalions as being "[F]rom left to right, the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions held the front lines."<sup>12</sup>

Cook places the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion (and our Private Ellis) to the south west of St. Julien, just north of Mouse Trap Farm and east of Turner's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Headquarters.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Tim Cook, *At the Sharp End, Canadians Fighting the Great War, 1914-1916*, Vol 1 (Toronto, Canada), 2007, 91 ("*Sharp End*").

<sup>8</sup> Mark Osbourne Humphries and Lyndsay Rosenthal, "Sir Richard Turner and the Second Battle of Ypres, April and May 2015", *Canadian Military History* 24, No. 1 (Winter/Spring 2015) 391 at 405, citing Sir Richard Turner's Narrative, Sir Richard Turner's Papers, The George Metcalf Archival Collection, Canadian War Museum ("*Humphries*" and "*Turner's Narrative*" respectively).

<sup>9</sup> Humphries, at 418, citing 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde War Diary.

<sup>10</sup> Colonel G.W.C. Nicholson, "The Second Battle of Ypres", *Canadian Military History* 24, No.1 (Winter/Spring 2015) 183 at 202. Reprint of original paper given October 23, 1964, Colonel GWL Nicholson Papers, MG31-G-19, Volume 6, Library and Archives Canada. ("*Nicholson*").

<sup>11</sup> *Sharp End*, at 114.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, map at 120-121.



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Ellis and his mates were new to Flanders. The Canadians had only come into the line on March 4, 1915 at Neuve Chapelle and then it was not until early April that they moved to the Ypres Salient. They had inherited trenches from the French, which were poorly constructed and filled with filth.<sup>15</sup> They would have spent their nights with shovel in hand and their days avoiding the German sniper's attention. The food was bland, boring, and barely sufficient. The only saving grace being the rum ration and tobacco, both directed at dulling the senses and restoring the spirit, if not entirely masking the stench of rotting corpses.

Ypres remained the only large Belgian town that did not fall to the German advance. Ypres had become a symbol of denial; Britain had joined the war in large part to defend little Belgium and thus denying Germans victory at Ypres was of huge moral value to Britain. Ypres sits in a low lying and fertile region crossed by many small creeks and rivers. To the south west rose the low sandy ridge known either as Ypres or Passchendale Ridge which offered the Germans and excellent view of the Canadian lines. To the north west of Ypres crosses the Yser Canal. This water table sat a mere two feet below the ground making the area a sodden mess.<sup>16</sup> April 22, 1915 was warm and sunny, and about to get unbearably "hot" for the Canadians as they were exposed to a rain of fire and suffocating gas.<sup>17</sup>

It was in this wet, low lying ground, with dead French and Germans haphazardly buried that the Canadians were to face their first trial by fire.

...The trenches stank of urine and feces, as the French were haphazard about the establishment of proper latrine systems, preferring, it seemed to urinate and defecate anywhere they could find a corner. Far worse was the smell of decaying men. Maggoty corpses greeted the Canadians. Most had their eyes and tongues eaten out by rats, and the

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<sup>14</sup><https://www.google.ca/maps/place/The+Brooding+Soldier,+N313,+8920+Langemark-Poelkapelle,+Belgium/@50.8632627,2.955593,764a,35y,320.86h,78.41t/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x47dccbfb9f0eb2cf:0x7266b3195ce53a90!8m2!3d50.8996091!4d2.9406881>

<sup>15</sup> Sharpe End at 111.

<sup>16</sup> Nicholson, at 188-189.

<sup>17</sup> Sharpe End at 114.

corpses varied in states of decay, with patches of rotting, leather-like skin or even bare white bone protruding from the walls, floors, and from over the parapet. ...”<sup>18</sup>

On April 22, at 1730, the Algerians to the left of Turner’s 3 Brigade were subjected to an artillery barrage and the “projection of a green cloud of gas of a pungent odour.”<sup>19</sup> The Algerians “broke” and ran and the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion had to fill in the line left vacant by the fleeing Algerians.<sup>20</sup> This is the event most remembered as it was the first of many instances where the Canadians stepped up where others failed. While many point to Vimy, the mythology of the Canadian Storm Trooper begins at the Second Battle of Ypres.

The Algerians fled in disorder, except for a stalwart few. The Canadians to their right, from 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, extended their line to impede the advancing Germans. It was these brave souls, gasping through soaked handkerchiefs and sighting through stinging eyes that held back the onslaught. Still in the days before radios let alone satellite imagery, chaos reigned and General Turner struggled to discover what was happening on his left. Had they broken through, was he being encircled? For this he is much criticized but the benefit of such hindsight is cold comfort to the soldier concussed by shells, ears ringing, trying to decipher conflicting communications.<sup>21</sup> Turner, who had already won the Victoria Cross for saving guns in South Africa, was no doubt confused but then again, who would not be?

In any event, the debates of Generals would not likely have occupied the mind of Private Charles Ellis. The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion was not in the line but would have been subjected to bombardment on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If Ellis survived that, his wait for battle would not be long however as Cook writes that the Divisional Commander, General Edwin Alderson, ordered Turner to counter-attack at Kitchener’s wood: “Turner pulled together his reserve forces, which included the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, a Scottish kilted unit, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, largely composed of men from Calgary...” This note is interesting because Turner has been subjected to criticism for launching the counter attack on Kitchener’s Wood. The criticism, which is partly the subject of Mark Humphries’ article would seem misplaced if he was ordered by Alderson to do so and even if not, the immediate counter-attack was the prevailing British doctrine of the time. It would only be later, when the Canadians had more experience, and more confidence, that they would discard the immediate counter-attack doctrine and adopt the bite and hold tactics that would prove so successful. In April of 1915, both sides were flinging men forward in automatic counter-attacks. Accordingly, Turner, who may have been concussed himself, can hardly be blamed for a) following orders, and b) following imposed doctrine. Turner’s real error, if an error in the fog of war, was the pull back to GHQ line, which he ordered subsequently. In any event, this academic debate would provide little solace to Ellis and the hundreds of his mates who died in the counter-attack on Kitchener’s Wood.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade War Diary is slightly antiseptic in its description of the counter attack but did note that the Germans had reinforced the trenches in the woods with sandbags and wire. It also noted that four English Field Guns were recaptured in the assault. The diary reads:

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<sup>18</sup> Sharp End at 111.

<sup>19</sup> Turner’s Narrative at 405.

<sup>20</sup> Turner’s Narrative at 405.

<sup>21</sup> Sharpe End at 117; Humphries at 394.

...The German trenches had been strengthened by three tiers of sand bags as well as wire. The night was bright and the attack became known to the enemy when our troops were 500 yards away so that the advance was carried out under terrific rifle and machine gun fire from that distance, but the greatest steadiness prevailed. The trenches were carried with the bayonet and the wood cleared except for a small redoubt with machine guns at the S.W. corner...<sup>22</sup>

Cook is more descriptive when he writes:

Advancing in dense columns was the easiest way to travel in the darkness up the gentle ridge of the skyline, but experienced men winced at the thought of even one enemy machine gun catching them in this massed formation. It would be a slaughter. Lieutenant Colonel Russell Boyle of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion had a chance to confirm the existence of a probable machine-gun position on the flank at Oblong Farm, but decided against it because it fell out of his attack scheme and was considered "not our job." Leaving this threat unmasked and uncaptured was a terrible error by the Western Rancher and a sign of tactical inexperience. Boyle would not live to learn from his oversight, however, as he would be shot during the battle, dying in agony three days later at a makeshift hospital."<sup>23</sup>

The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diaries places C Company on the left, and thus Ellis, left and A Company on the right.<sup>24</sup> The men were in ranks of two files. What likely happened next to Ellis is described by Nicholson and Cook. After the two battalions struck off in the dark up a gentle uphill rise, they hit an unmarked fence in a beech hedge about four feet six inches high.<sup>25</sup> The noise of crossing it alerted the Germans who unleashed a hurricane of fire, from the woods where they would be difficult to see in the dark against the backdrop of the trees:

Masses of Canadians were caught in the open. Tracer bullets arced through the air. The columns of advancing troops, now in a series of ragged lines, temporarily faltered as the men were snapped backwards by Mauser bullets travelling two times faster than the speed of sound. But within a minute, officers ordered a Bayonet charge. It must have felt like an hour for the men under fire. Major Don Ormond of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, who would soon take over the battalion after his commanding officer and second-in-command were killed, remembered the chaos of that charge over broken ground. His most vivid memory was of seeing a man on fire like a human torch, likely lit up when one of the flares he was carrying was hit and ignited...."<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Humphries at 418.

<sup>23</sup> Sharp End at 125.

<sup>24</sup> War Diaries of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Library and Archives Canada, Mikan 1883216, [http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/results/images?module=images&SortSpec=score+desc&Language=eng&ShowForm=hide&SearchIn\\_1=mikanNumber&SearchInText\\_1=1883216&Operator\\_1=AND&SearchIn\\_2=&SearchInText\\_2=&Operator\\_2=AND&SearchIn\\_3=&SearchInText\\_3=&Level=&MaterialDateOperator=after&MaterialDate=&DigitalImages=1&Source=&ResultCount=10](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/results/images?module=images&SortSpec=score+desc&Language=eng&ShowForm=hide&SearchIn_1=mikanNumber&SearchInText_1=1883216&Operator_1=AND&SearchIn_2=&SearchInText_2=&Operator_2=AND&SearchIn_3=&SearchInText_3=&Level=&MaterialDateOperator=after&MaterialDate=&DigitalImages=1&Source=&ResultCount=10)

<sup>25</sup> Nicholson, at 197.

<sup>26</sup> *Sharp End*, at 126, citing LAC, RG 24, v. 1755, DHS 10-10 pt. 2 D.M. Ormond to Duguid, 8 June 1926 and WD, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 22 April 1915, 11:44p.m.

Despite this carnage, elements of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> managed to take and hold Kitchener's Woods. Cook notes that having suffered such slaughter and without officers, prisoners were not taken by the charging Canadian forces. Cook writes "[B]y the morning of April 23, the 10<sup>th</sup> had been reduced to 5 officers and 188 enlisted men..."<sup>27</sup> This is down from the 43 officers and 1051 other ranks who lived on April 22, 1915. It is thus likely that Ellis perished with so many of his mates in the charge in the dark to retake Kitchener's Woods. Then Major, soon to be Lieutenant-Colonel Ormond notes in the war diary the names of 19 men either killed, wounded or captured (including what appears to be the Padre), Ellis and the other nearly 800 men killed are not mentioned individually.<sup>28</sup>

His death could have been excruciating and lonely. Turner wrote: "We had to leave our wounded on the ground for 24 hours as it was impossible to remove them."<sup>29</sup>

If Charles Ellis survived until April 23<sup>rd</sup> then he had lain in a shallow slit trench and fought through the morning. He would have begun in a position north of the woods but then fallen back to the old German trenches to the south. In the wee hours of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Turner ordered Lieutenant Colonel David Watson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion to support the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. At this time, the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade was being broken up and fed in to support the two brigades already in the line.<sup>30</sup>

What was left of the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion defended counterattacks through the night. The carnage lay about them. Cook writes:

Even with the front stabilized, hundreds of wounded lay bleeding in the lines. Those who could drag themselves out of their craters stumbled to the rear or were assisted by other walking wounded. ....

Dressing stations were inundated with hundreds of men at a time. The conventional wounds were terrible, the internal gas wounds even worse. The chlorine irritated and destroyed the alveoli, causing fluid discharge within the lungs and impairing the exchange of oxygen. Even worse, the chlorine mixed with water to form hydrochloric acid that burned tissue. In the end, men drowned in their own searing fluids. It was an ugly death.  
<sup>31</sup>  
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In the end for Charles Ellis, it was very likely an ugly death but not a death without meaning. Had Ellis and his mates not flung themselves in the maw of the advancing German breakthrough, the already broken line would have been shattered and the British army encircled.

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<sup>27</sup> *Sharp End*, at 128.

<sup>28</sup> LAC, War Diaries, 23 April, 1915, 6 am.

<sup>29</sup> Turner's Narrative at 409.

<sup>30</sup> *Sharp End*, at 137.

<sup>31</sup> *Sharp End* at 142. Alveoli is part of the lungs and key to breathing.

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Colonel G.W.C. Nicholson, “The Second Battle of Ypres”, *Canadian Military History* 24, No.1 (Winter/Spring 2015) 183 at 202. Reprint of original paper given October 23, 1964, Colonel GWL Nicholson Papers, MG31-G-19, Volume 6, Library and Archives Canada.

Photo of Menin Gate, panel <https://goo.gl/images/a7i5PB>

<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/The+Brooding+Soldier,+N313,+8920+Langemark-Poelkapelle,+Belgium/@50.8632627,2.955593,764a,35y,320.86h,78.41t/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x47dccbfb9f0eb2cf:0x7266b3195ce53a90!8m2!3d50.8996091!4d2.9406881>

### Specific Questions

**When preparing, consider the following questions (not an exhaustive list and not a requirement to consider all question. This is a guide only):**

1. What do the documents reveal to you about your soldier?

For the most part there is scant detail and information. The best one can do is draw inferences from the evidence and the conditions at the time.

2. Is there another possible interpretation of your documents?

The lack of body and the previous AWOL charge leaves open the possibility of desertion. However, it would have been very difficult for a private soldier in 1915 to not only escape the lines in Belgium but escape being caught attempting to leave Belgium or France. Passage on any vessel would be monitored and there is no indication that he spoke sufficient French or Spanish to travel through France to Spain.

3. How could you verify your interpretation? Where might you need to search for relevant resources?

A more detailed examination of the Battalion's records and then research into C Company specifically. While Charles Ellis may not have attracted official notice in the records, he may have been mentioned in other communications, records and / or letters.

In addition, we know who his sisters were. Possibly he wrote them. By following up with their descendants, some more information may be gleaned.

4. How is your soldier's information similar or different to information being researched by other students?

Not significant. Although glad that there was no repeated reference to venereal disease.

5. How do you determine what resources are necessary to support your research?

Following instructions and pursuing the resources indicated firstly. Secondly, by backing away from the individual and looking at the secondary materials with respect to the Division, Brigade, Battalion and Company. Thirdly, looking to the resources cited therein. Fourthly, by looking for resources to answer specific questions (e.g. graveyard and ancestry sites with respect to the sisters; google maps to review the ground).

6. What events that emerge out of the documents that you consider to be historically significant? Consider curriculum expectations/outcomes.

The night of April 22-23, 1915 is historically significant as the Canadians prevented a major breakthrough by withstanding an assault during which the first major use of illegal gas occurred and which adjoining French troops fled. The Canadians were raw and untested. Accordingly, the events were significant as it affected the outcome of the war firstly, and began the Canadian Storm Trooper mythology secondly. This last aspect is particularly important because it is a mythology that was denied in the 60's-80's and replaced by the Peacekeeper Myth.

The conditions under which Private Charles Ellis lived, fought and died, while not significant in the grand scheme of geopolitics are significant in the discussion of what made the "hard men" of Canada achieve that which others could not? This then opens up the discussion of stoicism, morality, religion, and work ethic.

Areas covered:

Military Culture

Warfare

Perfect Theory v. messy human practice

Religion

Commemoration and Memory

Curriculum Outcome: Institute a better understanding and curiosity into the "real" foundation for the myths.

7. Can you determine what other people may be affected by the events that emerge out of the documents?

The friends, family of Charles Ellis and the soldiers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

8. How does your research connect to the issues at the time?

The research is directly applicable to the strategic, tactical and societal issues of warfighting in 1915. It is after all, soldiers who fight wars and regardless of grand strategy, the man with the rifle determines success or failure. Whether he will or will not use that rifle successfully is an issue of his character, training and treatment.

9. What issues that you identified are still relevant today? Explain your thinking.

All issues are important today and perhaps much so because there is far less adherence to societal norms today. The cult of the individual has replaced the cult of civilized society and thus the determination of what allowed them to do what they did is critical in determining how we survive in such a setting today... or not.

10. How is each issue similar or different from today and when written?

The issues have not changed, the nature of man and the technology has. The age-old issues of morality, greed, ego, courage, hunger, fear remain constant, it is the construction of the humans which has changed, together with the technology to hunt, kill, provision and heal.

11. Based on your research what information do you consider to be the most significant?  
How did you determine this?

The conditions of battle and the ability to withstand them. The disparity between the personal reaction to these horrors then and the rules of engagement and impact today. Were we just made of sterner (better) stuff then?