

**Fred East**  
**Pte/ Acting Corporal**  
**43<sup>rd</sup> Btn Canadian Infantry (Manitoba**  
**Regiment)**  
**Service no. 152370**



| Date of birth                        | Date KIA                           | Age       |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> September 1887</b> | <b>8<sup>th</sup> October 1916</b> | <b>29</b> |

### Background: Fred East

Fred was the son of William East and Elizabeth East (née Dakin) of South Scarle. The 1891 Census shows them living in South Scarle at ‘the village ale house’ – now Yew Tree Farm. The family at the time were:

|                  |             |                       |                               |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| William East     | 38yrs       | Master Joiner         | b. Asterby, Lincolnshire 1854 |
| Elizabeth Dakin  |             | b.South Scarle        | 1855                          |
| Emmie            | 9yrs        | b.South Scarle        | 1881                          |
| John William     | 7yrs        | b.South Scarle        | 1884 died 1891 <sup>1</sup>   |
| George           | 6yrs        | b.South Scarle        | 1885 died 1891                |
| <b>Fred East</b> | <b>3yrs</b> | <b>b.South Scarle</b> | <b>1887</b>                   |
| Tom Dakin East   |             | b. South Scarle       | 1886                          |

Another son, Robert (1889 - 1891) does not appear on the census as he had died by then.

Shortly after 1891 the family moved to Bell Lane, Collingham. 1901 Census: The East family (William, Elizabeth, Fred and Tom) lived in Bell Lane, North Collingham.

Emma was listed as a dressmaker and there was also 9 yr. old Mary, known to the family as Eliza, who had been born 1892 in North Collingham. Another son, Herbert, had died in infancy in 1892.

1911 Census: Only Fred and Tom were recorded as living at home with William and Elizabeth.

In 1913, Fred, a butcher, emigrated to Canada. At the time of his attestation in **January 1916** Fred was married to Marion Gemmill<sup>2</sup>. Their son, Fred, was born in July 1916.

<sup>1</sup> John William, Robert and George died shortly after the 1891 census was taken (added by HP)

<sup>2</sup> It is not known whether Fred and Marion were officially married – see page 3

## Military History: Corporal Fred East

Fred East's attestation document, completed when he volunteered for the 79<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion in Manitoba, Canada, on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1916, stated that he was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1886, in Cottingham (*sic*), Nottinghamshire. A butcher by trade he was married to Marion East, both were living at the King Edward Hotel, Brandon, Manitoba.

He had previously served for 7yrs in the 8<sup>th</sup> Notts Territorials (a volunteer reserve force).

The 79th Battalion (Manitoba), Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) was authorized for Service in August 1915, having been raised and recruited by the Manitoba Rangers. They embarked for Britain on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916 with 37 officers and 1095 other ranks and provided reinforcements to the Canadian Corps until it was absorbed by the 17th Reserve Battalion, (CEF) on 12 July 1916.

### The Battle of the Somme: Regina Trench

It was not until the beginning of September 1916 that the Canadian Corps moved to the battle area; and the middle of September before it engaged in any serious action, when until the middle of November, it bore its full share of the Somme fighting.

The first important action in which the Canadians were engaged was the capture of Sugar and Candy Trench and the sugar refinery at Courcellette on September 15, this is notable not only for the fierce fighting but as the first time that Tanks were used in alongside the Canadian infantry. The following day the Courcellette was captured in one of the most successful operations of the Somme. For many subsequent days the Germans unsuccessfully tried, at great cost, to retake Courcellette. In September and October 1916, the Canadian Corps was involved in grim attrition warfare. Their most-distant objective was Regina Trench (a German line of support trenches, beyond Courcellette). This was part of what became known as the Battle of Thiepval Ridge.

Incremental gains were made in late September, but on 1 October as the weather worsened, Canadian units managed to occupy parts of Regina Trench. However, they lacked the resources to hold on. On 8 October (**the day that Fed East was killed**) a further attack was made with little gain. They suffered heavy losses before finally taking Regina Trench on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

When the Somme fighting stopped in the later part of November the Canadian Corps had sustained 29,029 casualties in exchange for six kilometres of mud. The CEF was so respected and combat efficient that the Germans nicknamed them 'Stormtroopers.'

Fred is remembered in **Regina Trench Cemetery Grandcourt, Somme III. A. 8 and on North Collingham War Memorials, All Saints' Church, Collingham.**

#### INSCRIPTION

"THOUGH DIVIDED IN DEATH MEMORY STILL CLINGS FROM HIS  
LOVING WIFE & SON"

Fred East's headstone inscription c/o CWGC website

## Sources:

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/79th\\_Battalion\\_\(Manitoba\),\\_CEF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/79th_Battalion_(Manitoba),_CEF) Accessed 29/08/2014
- <http://www.ancestry.ca/genealogy/canadian-expeditionary-force/CEF-79th-Battalion.html>  
Accessed 29/08/2014
- <http://cefresearch.ca/matrix/Army%20Corps/Divisions/Reorganized%20Units/Reinforcements/79th%20Battalion.htm> Accessed 29/08/2014
- <http://cefresearch.ca/matrix/Utilities/reserves/17th.htm> Accessed 29/08/2014
- <http://www.niagarahistorical.museum/media/03.C.E.F.-ABriefHistorycopy.pdf> Accessed 29/08/2014
- <http://www.canadaatwar.ca/content-80/wwi-the-somme-regina-trench/> Accessed 29/08/2014

Researcher: **Jeremy Lodge** Date: 29/08/2014

### Additional Notes on Fred East

The following notes were compiled from information kindly provided by Mr John Tutty of Radcliffe-on-Trent, grandson of Tom Dakin East (Fred East's brother who was killed in action 1917 - see Tom Dakin East's profile) and Mrs Elisabeth Wilson of Winthorpe, Tom Dakin East's granddaughter.

### Fred East (1887-1916)

- Date of Birth September 1<sup>st</sup> 1887 at South Scarle – registered October 1<sup>st</sup> 1887 District Newark – Baptised October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1887 by the vicar W H Hewett at South Scarle – father William's occupation 'joiner'.
- Fred emigrated to Canada and sailed on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1913 from Liverpool on board the ship Laurentic. Destination port: Montreal.
- He enlisted January 4<sup>th</sup> 1916 at The King Edward Hotel, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. On his Attestation Paper he gave an incorrect date of birth of 23.9.1886. His occupation was butcher.  
*Described as: 5'10 ½ ins with a small scar above thumb on left hand, blue eyes, light brown hair, 38-inch chest – previously 7 years with the 8<sup>th</sup> Notts territorials.*  
Regimental number 152370 – gave address as King Edward Hotel, Brandon. Enlisted into the 43rdBTn Canadian infantry Manitoba regiment.
- It is thought he met his wife, (although not known if they were married) Marion Gemmill, in Manitoba.

- Embarked from Canada on the RMS Lapland 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916. Disembarked England 5<sup>th</sup> May 1916.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1916 transferred from the initial 79<sup>th</sup> overseas battalion to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Canadian infantry Manitoba regiment.
- Landed in France 29<sup>th</sup> June 1916
- appointed Acting Corporal on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1916 reported missing.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1916 previously 'missing' now 'killed in action' 8<sup>th</sup> October 1916.
- Fred East buried at Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt Somme France Row 3 A 8

BURIAL OFFICER, THIRD ARMY.  
Serial No. 1489  
Canadian Burial

**CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES. (EXHUMATION AND RE-BURIALS).**

**BURIAL RETURN.**

Name of Cemetery of Re-burial Regina Trench Cemetery. Location. R. 23.D.3.1. Sheet 57.d. Buried 18/3/16

| Plot. | Row. | Grave. | Approximate Map Reference where body found.<br>57.d. | War cross found on grave. | Particulars on cross found on grave.                          | Were any Effects forwarded to Base. |
|-------|------|--------|--|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 3     | A    | 1      | R. 17.   | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.R. 61. Unknown. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Cadn Bn.                   | No.                                 |
|       |      | 2      | R. 24  | G.R.U. ✓                  | 153787. Pte. Dury. C.E.F.                                     | No.                                 |
|       |      | 3      | R. 17  | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.R. 69. Ralph. 79 <sup>th</sup> Cadn Bn.                     | No.                                 |
|       |      | 4      | R. 17  | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.R. 75. 152789. Pte. N.J. Waddall. 43 <sup>rd</sup> Cadn Bn. | No.                                 |
|       |      | 5      | R. 17  | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.T. 35. 470401. Pte. G.E. Deveau. 26 <sup>th</sup> Cadn Bn.  | No.                                 |
|       |      | 6      | R. 24  | G.R.U. ✓                  | 5. 152482. Sgt. A. Joass. 42 <sup>nd</sup> Cadn Bn.           | No.                                 |
|       |      | 7      | R. 24  | G.R.U. ✓                  | 152889. Pte. S.C. Snell. 43 <sup>rd</sup> Cadn Bn.            | Ex. Disc.                           |
|       |      | 8      | R. 24  | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.T. 60. 152370. Pte. E. East. 43 <sup>rd</sup> Cadn Bn.      | No.                                 |
|       |      | 9      | R. 17  | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.R. 70. Unknown Canadian Soldier.                            | No.                                 |
|       |      | 10     | R. 17  | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.R. 45. Unknown British Soldier.                             | No.                                 |
|       |      | 11     | R. 24  | G.R.U. ✓                  | 151023. Pte. Lennox. 45 <sup>th</sup> Cadn Bn.                | No.                                 |
|       |      | 12     | R. 17  | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.R. 68. Unknown Canadian Soldier.                            | No.                                 |
|       |      | 13     | R. 24.   | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.T. 51. 703851. Pte. Evans. 122 <sup>nd</sup> Cadn Bn.       | No.                                 |
|       |      | 14     | R. 17.   | G.R.U. ✓                  | C.R. 36. 477002. Pte. W. Acreman. R.C.F.                      | No.                                 |
|       |      | 15     | R. 24  | G.R.U. ✓                  | -9037.E. Bernard. 26 <sup>th</sup> Cadn Bn.                   | Ex. Di.                             |

No. 3 Adv. Sect., A.P. & S.S. This form to be rendered in duplicate, one copy being handed to the Registration Officer and the other retained by the Burial Officer. 7 OCT 1916

Above: Form referring to re-burials in the Regina Trench Cemetery from the place they were initially buried with a simple wooden cross 'marker' (see sample in St John the Baptist's Church belonging to T H C Woolley). At least Fred East was identified, unlike some of his comrades from the Canadian battalions who are 'unknown Canadian soldier.'

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website

## **Marion East (c.1895-1945)**

- Marion East née Gemmell was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland, in 1896 and migrated to Canada around 1912 aged 16.
- Marion came over to England from Canada shortly after Fred enlisted, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1916, with her infant son, Fred Jr. He had been born on July 4<sup>th</sup> so was only a few weeks old. She gave her address as Queen Street, Collingham (Laura East's address – possibly part of what is now called Ercele's Cottage).
- She went on to marry John Frederick Rudd on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1919 at St Nicholas's Church, Lincoln.
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1920 – plaque and scroll were sent to her and a memorial cross to widow and mother Elizabeth East (although Elizabeth was deceased by then) Service record amended – **Marion Rudd** living at 23 Saxon Street Lincoln (7th April 1922) applied for widow's pension but when a marriage certificate was requested on 18.9.16 & not produced, her Separation Allowance was therefore stopped.
- Marion Rudd died Dec 1945 aged 49 years (Vol7A Page 464<sup>3</sup>) – John F Rudd died September 1965 aged 74 years in North Kesteven, Lincs
- Marion and Fred East's son, Fred Jr., born Manitoba July 4<sup>th</sup> 1916 died in an aircraft accident aged 21 on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1937 at RAF Waddington.

There are no known pictures of Fred East or Marion. Marion remarried three years after Fred's death '*... Marion risked U-boat attacks to follow him (Fred) yet three years later she was married again.*' – T Frecknall p 72. However, Marion was barely twenty years old with a small child to rear when Fred was killed and living in an unknown area with no family support. Her only link in Collingham was to Fred's sister-in-law Laura, herself widowed & struggling to support two young children. With no widow's pension to rely on, life would have been a struggle. Let's hope she found happiness with John Rudd.

The East family had a painful period between 1916 & 1917 as this timeline shows:

### **1916**

'Spring' William and Elizabeth (Fred's parents) return to their native South Scarle from Bell Lane.

August Daughter-in-law Marion arrives in Collingham with infant son, Fred Jr.

Oct Fred East killed in action.

### **1917**

Jan William East dies 'suddenly' aged 63

Sept Tom Dakin East killed in action, leaving a young wife and two small children.

Nov Elizabeth East dies aged 62

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<sup>3</sup> Death registration number

*With special thanks to John Tutty and Elisabeth Wilson for their added information on Fred and Marion East*

### **Sources:**

- 🔴 Cap badge insignia of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry c/o Dan Baker British Military Badges
- 🔴 East Trent Genealogy database
- 🔴 CWGC website
- 🔴 Nottinghamshire County Council Roll of Honour website
- 🔴 Trevor Frecknall 'Collingham and District in the Great War' pub. 2015

### **Further Reading:**

There is an interesting website 'Doing Our Bit' with a good link to the 79<sup>th</sup> Brigade Camerons here:  
<https://militaryandfamilyhistory.blog/2014/08/26/79th- Cameron-highlanders-depart-winnipeg-for-valcartier/>

The website also provides an excellent reading list with links:  
<https://militaryandfamilyhistory.blog/2013/12/30/canadian-ww1-military-histories/>

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada website:  
<http://www.thequeensowncameronhighlandersofcanada.net/>

