

# Durrington War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**45059 SAPPER**

**G. BURNETT**

**CANADIAN ENGINEERS**

**6TH DECEMBER, 1914 AGE 26**

*Duty Nobly Done*

*Dearly Loved By All*

## George BURNETT

George Burnett was born on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1889 in Lower Broughton, Manchester, Lancashire to parents Samuel & Eliza Burnett (nee Willoughby). His birth was registered in the district of Salford in December quarter of 1889.

A marriage was registered in the June quarter of 1908, in the district of Manchester, between George Burnett & Ellen Gregory.

George Burnett enlisted with the Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec. He was a married Bricklayer & aged 25 years & 11 months. His religion was Wesleyan & he had never served in the Military. His next-of-kin was listed as his wife – Mrs George Burnett of 50 Sussex Street, Lower Broughton, Manchester, Lancashire, England. George Burnett was given the rank of Sapper – originally with 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company Engineers then later with 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Company Engineers, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Divisional Engineers.

One of the first tasks completed by the engineers after the declaration of war upon Germany in 1914 was for the rapid development of the Valcartier training site in Quebec. At its peak size 30,000 men were stationed here before the 1st Canadian Division was deployed to England. The First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force set off for England in the largest trans-Atlantic convoy to date in October, 1914. Training and reorganization commenced upon arrival in the United Kingdom in October 1914, and it was not until 26 January 1915 that the division was officially organized, under the command of Lieutenant General E.A.H. Alderson, a British Army officer. Training in the winter of 1914 was rigorous, and conditions on Salisbury Plain were harsh due to cold and rain. After being stationed at Salisbury Plain in England, the 1st Canadian Division embarked for France during February 1915.

Sapper George Burnett died in hospital, in Wiltshire, England, on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1914 of pneumonia.

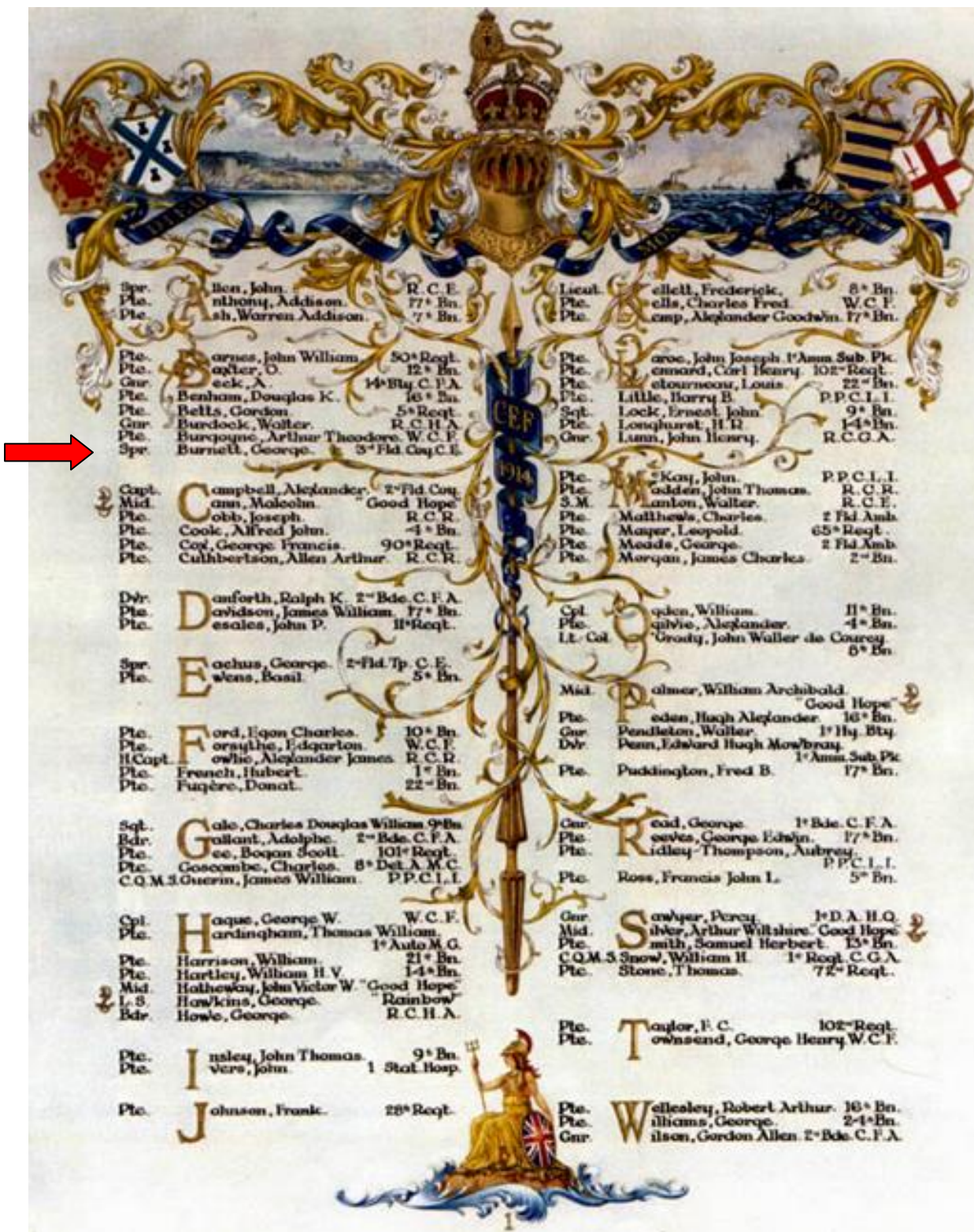
A death for George Bennett, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1914 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Sapper George Burnett was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave / Plot Number 49 on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1914. A description of his grave from Canadian Expeditionary Forces Register states that a "Wreath was enclosed in glass case on a marble base". A cross was erected. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he now has a CWGC headstone with the inscription "Duty Nobly Done, Dearly Loved By All".

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper George Burnett as the son of Samuel and Eliza Burnett of Lower Broughton, Manchester; husband of Ellen Burnett of 64 North Graves St, Chatham, Manchester, England.



Sapper George Burnett of 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Company, Canadian Engineers, Canadian Expeditionary Force is remembered on page 1 of the Canadian First World War Book Of Remembrance, Canadian Virtual War Memorial.



## Newspaper Report

### **A TORONTO MAN DIED AT SALISBURY**

Geo. Burnett of the Engineer Corps, Who Lived in Spadina.

Sapper George Burnett, of Toronto, a member of the Canadian Expeditionary force on Salisbury Plain, died yesterday from pneumonia, according to a dispatch from Ottawa.

Sapper Burnett left Toronto with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company, Canadian Engineers, for Valcartier on August 22. His description, \_\_\_\_\_ from the Old Country, referred to him as No. 45059, Sapper George Burnett, divisional engineers. Sapper Burnett lived at \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Spadina Avenue, was a bricklayer and 25 years of age. He wife lived at 50 Sussex Street, Broughton, Manchester, England.

(*Toronto Star*, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1914)

---



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo by Dave Healing 2013)

Photo of Sapper G. Burnett's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo by Ian King- 2010)*