

VIMY

# **PRIVATE MEMORIES**

## **THE ICETON BROTHERS**



**COMPILED AND EDITED  
BY VANESSA DAL BELLO**

## Note to the Reader

In the process of compiling these letters, I've made decisions in the editing process that I believe will make reading and comprehension easier. Such edits include spelling, grammar, punctuation, and layout. There have been no significant changes that have impacted the meaning or context of the letters as a collection.

The majority of letters in this collection are from Harold (James Harold Vincent) and John (John Walker) Icton to their sister Dolly (Dorothy Catherine Walker Icton). Harold and John sent these letters home during the First World War while serving overseas in England and France. Note that John signs all of his letters as "Jack," as he was known in the family.

You will find that the letters follow both a chronological and thematic order. There are four sections: the first, and most comprehensive, includes letters written by Harold and John that were sent home to their sister Dolly, and in one instance to their parents. The second group of letters were written by Dolly to Harold; unfortunately, these letters were returned to Dolly after Harold's death at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. The third section consists of letters written by John to Dolly after the death of their brother. Lastly, the fourth section contains two letters to Dolly, one from her cousin David and the other from her husband Charles Henry Hoskinson.

What follows is an outline of the Icton family to aid in reading the letters:

Parents: James Walker Icton and Theresa Mary (Robinson) Icton

Children: Dorothy Catherine Walker Icton

- James Harold Vincent Icton
- Eveline Margaret Mary Icton
- Hubert Adrian Paul Icton
- William Icton
- Philip Icton
- John Walker Icton
- Theresa Josephine Icton
- William Trevor Icton

The Icton family immigrated to Canada from Darlington, England between April 1912 and January 1913. As the eldest brother, Harold was the first of the Icton family to arrive in April, followed by Bert in June, John in July, and Dolly and Eveline in September. The youngest two children at the time, William and Theresa, arrived in January of 1913 accompanied by their parents.

The Icton family lived on Bellwoods Avenue in Toronto, Ontario. Dolly and Eveline lived at the houses at which they were employed, as a governess and housekeeper respectively.

After the war, John married May Brown with whom he had two children, Marguerite and Trevor Iceton. Marguerite was 92 years young at the time that this book was being created.

As is highlighted in the letters, Dorothy married Charles Henry Hoskinson and together gave birth to Rita Hoskinson.

Vanessa Dal Bello

## Introduction

Most war literature was written from the perspective of the higher ranks but this collection of letters gives unique insight to the life of two Privates.

James Harold Vincent Icton and John Walker Icton enlisted in the 124<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Toronto on December 31, 1915. The battalion was stationed in Toronto until May 18, 1916 when it sailed to Camp Niagara for extended training. The 124<sup>th</sup> Battalion was mobilized for overseas active service on June 1, 1916; subsequently, the battalion left for Camp Borden on July 4, 1916. The battalion reached Halifax on August 7, 1916 and joined a convoy bound for Liverpool on August 9, 1916.

The battalion reached Liverpool on August 18, 1916 and headed for Bramshott the following day. Due to an excess of infantry battalions, the 124<sup>th</sup> was broken up to provide reinforcements for the battalions already serving at the front. On September 30, 1916, about four hundred men were sent to France to fill the depleted ranks of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Battalions, which had suffered severe casualties in the Battle of the Somme.<sup>1</sup> The Icton brothers were among those transferred to the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, a front-line unit that had gone overseas in April 1915.

Breaking up newer battalions was common practice that helped to keep up the strength of older battalions already at the front. Typically, soldiers would be transferred to line battalions connected to the towns in which they enlisted. Therefore, the Icton brothers were placed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion as this unit originated from London, Ontario.

Part of the Icton brothers' time overseas was served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Entrenching Battalion; as a result, much of their time was spent digging trenches. Whenever there was a shortage of labourers at the front, groups of infantrymen were temporarily attached to an Entrenching Battalion. They would officially remain with their own battalion, but could work in an Entrenching Battalion for any extended period of time. It was also recorded that John worked with the Canadian Corps Tramways for two months, which suggests he laid railway lines.

Unfortunately, only one brother would travel home after the war. John was struck off strength of the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion to be transferred to England on January 6, 1919. Upon returning home, John carried on a "normal" life; he married, joined the Toronto Police, and had children. However, he was often frightened by loud noises and sudden shocks, a side-effect of shelling in the trenches. He also suffered from pain in his side and back caused by shrapnel that could not be removed. John died on April 16, 1950 in Toronto.

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<sup>1</sup> Hughes, Paul. *124<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF*. 2003. p 40-41

**1**



10 February 1916

Dear Dolly,

Just a line hoping you are well as it leaves us pretty fair at present. Bert<sup>2</sup> should be home before April. Tell Charlie<sup>3</sup> to send me one of them horses that he got. I have not got Mrs. R.<sup>4</sup> parcel yet. [I] am pleased all are well at home when you wrote. How does Dad stand the cold? [I] have not wrote to L.S.,<sup>5</sup> lost the address. Have not got the parcel either.

So Dick is in Egypt?<sup>6</sup> He will find it hot but I would sooner be there than in France. Had a letter from Uncle Tom + Fred [h]as been in hospital 5 weeks but is out again now.<sup>7</sup> He says he finds it hot out there, its a wonder they sent Fred to Egypt after sending him home from West-Africa.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Dolly's brother Hubert; Bert worked on a farm near Bradford, Ontario.

<sup>3</sup> Dolly's beau; they were married on May 5, 1917. Charlie frequently worked on his relatives' farms around Bradford, Ontario.

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Robins, a close friend of the family.

<sup>5</sup> Lizzie Salmon, referred to numerous times in the following letters.

<sup>6</sup> The Ottoman Empire had declared war on Britain, France, and Russia in November, 1914. The Suez Canal was the main link between Africa and the Ottoman Empire, which Britain had illegally closed to enemies at the outbreak of the war. The canal was essential to the Allies as it helped move contingents from India and Australasia to Europe. Egypt quickly filled up with British and allied troops; by January, 1915, there were 70,000. During the time this letter was written, the fundamentalist Senussi sect embarked on a series of raids in Libya against the western Egyptian border. The British Empire fought in the Senussi Campaign from November 1915 to early 1917.

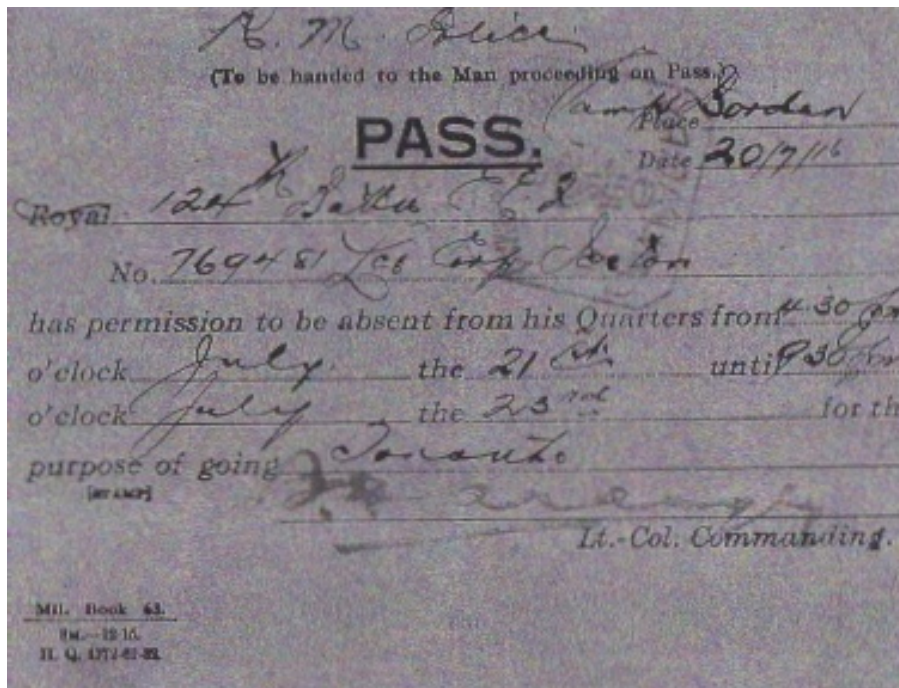
<sup>7</sup> Thomas Iceton was the brother of Dolly and Harold's father; Tom and his wife Jane had five children, one of whom was Frederick.

<sup>8</sup> Once the war began, Britain and France took action to reduce the garrisons of Germany's colonies, two of which were Togo and Kamerun (now Cameroon). Togo, sandwiched between the British Gold Coast (now Ghana) and French Dahomey (now Benin), was taken easily. Kamerun was a much larger territory; the Allied army grew to a strength of 25,000 including troops from Nigeria, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone under the British command in addition to the French African infantry and a Belgian contingent from the Congo.

So Charlie [h]as got another niece. Well I cannot tell you anything only we are pretty well + hope you all are the same so I will sign off with love,

From Your Loving + Affectionate Brother Harold

Harold & Jack trained at Camp Borden near present-day Angus, Ontario.



This is an official pass allowing Jack to leave Camp Borden for two days from July 21-23, 1916. This would have been Jack's last visit home; the Toronto unit left for England in August 1916.



769481 Pte J. W. Iceton  
B Comp 124<sup>th</sup> Batt CEF  
Army Post Office  
London, England

19 September 1916

Dear Sister,

I pen these few lines to you hoping it finds you well as I am just about the same myself. I received your welcome letter yesterday + was pleased you had got home again as I know mother would be a kind of lonely you girls not getting home a night or two.

There is nothing much around here, only soldiers, huts + a little village Haslemere<sup>9</sup> with a store or two + lots of soldiers. Nothing else but Tommys<sup>10</sup> walking around. I had a trip up to Darlington + saw lots of old friends + Lance. He knew I was in town as Max was the first we saw + we had a trip round town with the papers so Lance took two days leave to see me.<sup>11</sup> You [h]as got another boy so you see you can believe a little of what you hear in Toronto. I expect to be away from here very soon by what I hear around. We are getting lots of rifle drill + learning about shooting + night marches too.

I hope you won't forget to send me a fag<sup>12</sup> or two as I run short sometimes + they keep \$20 off us here.<sup>13</sup> Out of the 12 or 13 we have to draw, they keep so much a month + leave us about \$6 a month to spend<sup>14</sup> + things is very Dear to 1/2" cakes 1d, lemonade 2d, box [of] players fags 4d, for 10 matches 3 small Boxes 2d, Biskets 3s 1d, Cherry Blossom Boot Polish 3d, tin for 6d.<sup>15</sup> Nearly everything double the price.

I was in London about 6 hours + I had a little look around and met a nice cockney girl. I am sending her photo [so] you can see it + give mother it, will you? I don't know much about her but she was very straight with me while I was with her, but I expect to go to see Jack<sup>16</sup> weekend after next so I won't be able to see her any more perhaps.

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<sup>9</sup> A town in Surrey, England

<sup>10</sup> A common term for British soldiers

<sup>11</sup> Lance and Max were friends from home, also serving overseas.

<sup>12</sup> A cigarette, or the end of a cigarette that is discarded.

<sup>13</sup> Soldiers were paid \$1.10 a day; pay deductions were sent home to the next of kin, in this case Jack's mother.

<sup>14</sup> Extra deductions would be taken off a soldier's pay for kit replacements, meals, and infractions; John forfeited three days pay for being absent from parade.

<sup>15</sup> 'd' represents pence (penny) and 's' represents shilling in UK currency, where 1£ (pound) equals 240 pence or 20 shillings

<sup>16</sup> Family friend, Jack Surridge, mentioned later in this collection.

We are going to be inspection by Gen[eral] French<sup>17</sup> tomorrow + I busy fixing my kit up so I will close with lots of love hoping to hear from you soon,

From Your Loving Brother Jack

Hope all are well at home.

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<sup>17</sup> General Sir John French was commander of the British Expeditionary Force for the first two years of the war; he returned to England when he was appointed Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces, in December 1915.

*Jack & Harold are now writing from France.*

21 October 1916

# 769481 Pte J.W. Iceton  
18<sup>th</sup> Batt  
CEF France

Dear Sister,

I write you these few lines hoping you are well as I am keeping pretty [fair] myself. We have been here about 2 weeks and we expect to be moved to the firing line this week. I am looking out for a letter from someone as I have had no mail for two weeks and it makes a lot of difference to me when I don't hear from anyone as I always had a letter once a week. But I don't blame them that writes, but the mailman at Bramshott<sup>18</sup> not sending it forward to France.

We have been having a course here of bayonet fighting and barbed wire entanglements and everything they have at the front line so we will know how to deal with them. We go to church from the camp and its about 20 min[utes] walk through a French village, and its a very old church too, and there is a English priest [who] preaches the sermon for us every time, and [a] French priest says mass. So, we get a walk out of the camp once a week into to the town.

I have not much to say as I can't tell you every thing I['d] like to, so I will close with my best love to you,

From Your Loving Brother Jack xxxxxxxx

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<sup>18</sup> Bramshott Military Camp was a temporary army camp set up on Bramshott Common, Hampshire, England; one of three facilities in the Aldershot Command area established by the Canadian Army. Dolly would have sent mail to Jack at Bramshott before news reached her of their relocation.

31 October 1916

J. W. Icton Pte 769487  
18<sup>th</sup> Batt  
CEF France

Dear Sister,

Just a line to let you know I am keeping well, hope you are the same. We are having pretty wet weather here just now. Remember me to Charles + tell him to drop a line sometime.

I saw a guy that is in George Sutton[’s]<sup>19</sup> Batt[alion] + he told me he was alright last Sunday. I have not much to tell you as we are not allowed to say much, so good night + God Bless you,<sup>20</sup>

From Your Loving Brother Jack xxxx

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<sup>19</sup> George Sutton was a friend of the Icton family.

<sup>20</sup> The Icton family were devout Roman Catholics; reference to God and “our Blessed Lady” appear numerous times throughout this collection of letters.

France  
20 November 1916

To My Sister Dolly,  
Hope you + Charlie is all well. I am going up to the trenches tonight again.  
Hope to hear from you soon. xx  
From Your Loving Brother Jack

*Front of postcard*





*Note how Dolly wrote on the envelope "ans Dec 16-1916." This was a regular habit that helped her track the letters as she replied to them.*

somewhere in France  
23 November<sup>21</sup>  
have a good time at x-mas

Dear Sister,

Just a line to let you know I received your letter + was pleased to have it. I hope both you + Charlie are well. [H]as Charlie started that pig farm yet? I am pleased you all like the photo. Would have sent one to each of you but only had 1 doz + sent all I had left to mother.

So, old Hill [h]as got married again. Well you need not worry now,<sup>22</sup> you are not too late yet if he can get married. He ought to think about being buried by Nan.

You will see mother's letters + see about the parcels + letters. We have got some of them but not the main ones, but they might come yet. I hope so. You say you are getting plenty of rain, well we get our share here + more. But we have H. Icton 769402 18 Batt c/o 2nd entrenching Batt CEF France<sup>23</sup> been having fine cold weather this week. You need not worry about us, we are alright + we will look after ourselves as far as we can. Well, this is all at present so I will close with love to both of you, wishing you a merry x-mas + a happy new year.

From Your Loving Brother Harold  
your letter was Nov. 1 somewhere in France<sup>24</sup>



<sup>21</sup> The year is not specified on the letter; envelope was stamped November 24, 1916 by the Field Post Office and stamped December 9, 1916 in Toronto.

<sup>22</sup> Dolly was in her thirties when she married Charlie. She was concerned that she was too old to marry, especially since she was five years older than Charlie.

<sup>23</sup> Recording name, number, battalion, etc. was usually recorded at the top of each letter. However, it was not common for soldiers to insert this information in the body of their letters; this is unique to this collection. To date, there is no explanation for this. It is probable that the brothers forgot to include this information at the beginning of their letters and inserted it whenever they remembered.

<sup>24</sup> It was common practice to state the date of the letter soldiers were replying to.

France  
28 November 1916

Dear Sister Dolly,  
Just a line to wish you a merry Christmas + hoping you are well.  
From Your Loving Brothers Jack + Harold  
XXXX

*Front of postcard*





Somewhere in France  
30 November 1916

Dear Sister Dolly,

I received your letters date[d] Oct. 2 + Nov 8 both together. I was pleased to get them. Well I hope you + Charlie are well, as John + I are at present. Only I have a cold but you can expect to catch one once in a while when you are up to the knees in mud + water.

Well we are down the line a little way for a rest. Some rest I can tell you, I would sooner be up the line. Well lets know when it is coming off. I hear you are gathering things up what's that if you knew you would tell me well you will know as much as me. H. Iceton 769402 18<sup>th</sup> Batt c/o 2nd Entrenching Batt CEF France.

Well Dolly, you see that mother wears them furs of her[s] + never mind what them people think. She [h]as got 2 them to wear + make her wear them.

Did not get over to see Jack, had to come away. Yes, I had a letter from Lizzie Salmon but could not make anything of the address so I sent it home. Have not got your cigarettes you talk about in the Oct. 2 letter. You say look out for them. I have been looking for a hell of a long time for some of them. I don't know where they have got too. If I look out any further I will be looking up Yonge Street + see the Avenue Road cars coming down. We are attached to the Canadian Engineers for a while + all our work is done at night + I am getting like a cat in the dark for looking out so I will look out of the window for some of them parcels.

We had to quit work the other night. Fritz got line of us with his machine gun pea shooter so we got through 3 early that night. Well, I hope everybody is well. Remember me to everybody. You say Charlie is going to write soon, you tell him he is a sooner.

All the villages we were in near the trenches had been knocked about + there is no glass windows here, they are all wood. Mrs. Coverdale<sup>25</sup> is alright, had a letter the other day. Well I guess I will sign off as I have nothing to talk about now, only it is getting cold nights + mornings with thick fogs + plenty of rain, so will close with love,

From Your Loving + Affectionate Brother Harold

Mother tells me H. Kennedy as got wounded. He is lucky.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> One of Dolly's best friends

<sup>26</sup> Many soldiers would have thought it good fortune to be wounded as they would be sent home if deemed incapable to serve.



ON ACTIVE SERVICE.  
**SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.**  
CHAPLAIN SERVICE, CANADIAN CORPS.

France  
11 December 1916

Dear Sister Dolly,

Just a line hoping you are well as I am keeping well myself. We have been moved again to the same place we left 2 weeks ago + walking around the trenches, night work again. It is very wet here and awful muddy. The earth is all chalk and when it gets wet its like walking in lime.

I received your welcome letter about a week ago + mother's too. We had a parcel from Mrs. Coverdale + I had a letter from Mrs. Wilson, John Wilson['s] mother + one from Lance Wright. I hope you have received your Christmas card alright. I was at church last Saturday when I came away Pte J.W. Iceton 769487-18<sup>th</sup> Batt c/o 2<sup>nd</sup> Entrenching Batt. some where in France

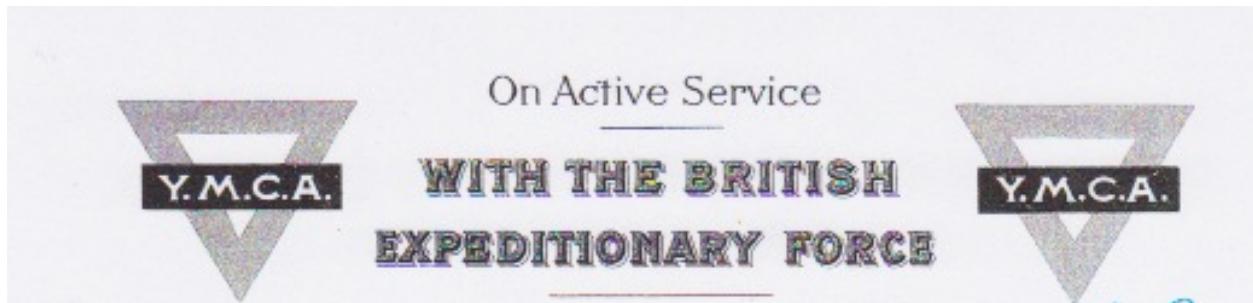
I have not much to tell you as there is nothing but guns + trenches where I am + lots Tomys + sump<sup>27</sup> + mud all around no Loues<sup>28</sup> or stars or pitchers shows here, but I always tell mother the bright part of it all as I know she would worry if I told her anything but I hope to get back to Canada + tell them all the news. Remember me to Charles + tell him a letter would cheer a fellow up a bit. We have just received [only?] \$5 from home so I guess the others have got lost, so I told mother not to send any more. I don't think there is anymore news just now so I will close with my best love.

From Your Loving + Affectionate Brother  
xxx Jack xxx

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<sup>27</sup> A marsh, swamp, morass; a dirty pool or puddle

<sup>28</sup> Reference to a "loo," plural; British slang for lavatory. Trench life was unhygienic as there were no proper facilities in the trenches. Many soldiers had "trench fever" as a result of being in contact with bacteria found in feces.



Somewhere in France  
14 December<sup>29</sup>

Dear Sister,

Just a line hoping you + all of them are well, as John and I are at present + in answer to your letter of Nov 22 we are getting your letters pretty regular now, but the parcels you all have sent are slow in getting here. Mother does not want to send so much as it costs so much + she could get something for herself with it. We got a parcel the other day with some cigs in [it] from Charlie. Thank him for them. He will have to excuse me not writing to him yet, we don't have much time when we are down the line for a rest.

We are drilling + having route marches, so it is some rest. I would rather be up the line all the time. H. Iceton 769402 18 Batt c/o 2<sup>nd</sup> Ent Batt CEF France So, you got a laugh out of the old hat? I got Eva's letter with the picture in + it looks alright. Theresa should cut her hair off, she wants to be a woman already. I wish I was only 10. We had a pretty hot time 3 nights ago, also last night had to come down of the parapet before some of us got hit. There is lots of mud + water around here + lots of rain.

I got a parcel of papers + John a parcel of Jack Canucks.<sup>30</sup> I had a letter from Jack, also one from Dad. Have wrote to Dad yesterday.

You see rats as big as cats + donkeys in the trenches the bleeding blighters nearly knock you down sometimes. Lance Wright is not far from us. Jack had a letter from him but we don't know exactly where he is. we have wood trench mats all along the trenches + they get slippery + you slip + slide then you slip off the side + go up to the knee in water + say oh Hell. I wonder where the next bloody hole is you cannot see in the dark, then you will hear somebody else fall in, then you know where it is. You want eyes like a cat sometimes.

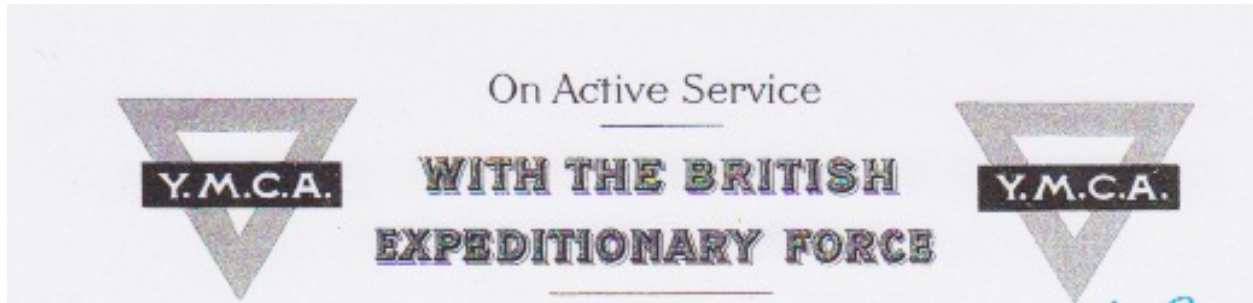
Well this is all at present. Have a good time x-mas + New Year + have a bit extra for me, for we will have hell of a time if the rations don't come up the same as last week. So, good day (bon jour) + God Bless you all,

From Your Loving + Affectionate Brother Harold

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<sup>29</sup> Accompanying envelope stamped by field post office December 17, 1916; arrived in Toronto January 1917

<sup>30</sup> *Jack Canuck* was a weekly review published from 1911-1918 in Toronto, edited by W. Rogers.



Somewhere in France  
22 December 1916

Dear Sister Dolly,

Just a few lines hoping you are well, also hope Charlie [h]as got rid of his cold + all the folks at home are well. I received your letter and forgot the date. I was burning some this morning that I had answered + I must have burnt yours. Well dear, I received a parcel from Mrs. B<sup>31</sup> thank her for them + when I go down the line I will send her a card if I can get one. John had a letter + 6 packets of cigarettes from Mrs. Peacock the other day. H. Icton seven six nine four nought two eighteenth Batt c/o second Ent Batt CEF France. I had a letter + cards from Mrs. Patterson + Joe the other day + Joe is getting better. Also Hilda is getting strong again she wished we were all together again.

We have had it pretty cold lately but it [h]as been raining these last two days + it make[s] everything mud over the boot tops. If I had or John had been wet through at home the same as we have been out here, we would have been in bed, but we are no worse for it. I am thankful to say two of our working party got badly wounded this week perhaps you will see it in the paper Larley + [Pisco?].

I hope by the time you get this letter you will all have had a good time + enjoyed yourselves this x-mas + New Year. If all is well, we all hope to be back for [the] next one. John had a letter from Bert + Mary + they are well but never mentioned any family yet. We had a letter from Jack Surridge + he is feeling well also one from Harry + he as sent me his photo. He expects to be called up anytime now.

Well I think this is all this time as I have nothing to talk about. I received Dad's + Mother's letters so I will sign off with love,

Your Ever Loving + Affectionate Brother Harold xxxx

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<sup>31</sup> Dolly lived with and worked for Mrs. Barker until she married Charles.

Somewhere - in France  
2 January 1917

Dear Mother Father + All,

Just a few lines hoping you are all well + in good health as John + I are at present. I guess you are having its cold with snow in Canada by this time. We had two slight covers with frost then it rained for nearly a week but this last three or four days [h]as been very fine but a little chilly. We had a parcel from Pollie + Maggie: a tin of cocoa, a tin of swiss milk, a packet of cigs + tobacco, but threeparts of the cake + X-mas pudding + all the biscuits had been taken out or lost out. But we did not have such a bad time under the circumstances. We went to the trench canteen + got tinned pineapple + peaches + sardines + with the parcels 3 or 4 of us had for a few days before. We had not such a bad time seeing where we are. We had a dixie of turkey stew but the turkey had walked through it with rubber boots on. There was so many of us for it.

I received your letter with Dolly[’s] on New Years day + was pleased to get it also one from you on Dec. 31. I hope you had a good time [at] Xmas, New Year[s] + on your Birthday. I was wondering what you were doing. It would be about 3+5 o’clock with you on New Years eve. John received Dolly’s letter with yours inside today. We have not got Lizzie Salmon’s parcel that she talks about. Well, we are another year, see what it brings forth.

Hiney<sup>32</sup> [h]as showed his weakness by asking about peace. He is beat now like a beaten egg, but will be a time before he gives in. Dolly tells John that Charlie [h]as joined the Kilts, some Kiltie I bet.<sup>33</sup>

I had a letter from Uncle Tom yesterday, they are well. John had a letter from George Sutton; he had not received our letter + he is only about 5 or 6 miles away from us. John [h]as wrote him again. I wrote your letter dated Dec 2, two days ago. You keep telling me about Willie<sup>34</sup> growing, he must be about 7 feet tall now. The first I’ve knew of Nan getting married was from Clara. Have not got Bert’s + Mary’s parcel yet or Mary N.’s cigs. Pleased you got the checks alright. We don’t want any thanks for them. Hope Dad got my two letters alright. Hope Dolly, Eva, Theresa, Willie, [and] Charlie are well, also Mary Nelson, yourself + Dad. Remember me to everybody. I have nothing to talk about so will close with love to all.

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<sup>32</sup> A German soldier; the Canadians call their enemy Heinie

<sup>33</sup> The “Kilts” may refer to the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders, a battalion from Toronto, however, this is unlikely as Charlie did not enlist in the war. Alternately, there were many Irish regiments that wore the kilt; there may have been some miscommunication as Charlie’s relatives were of Irish decent.

<sup>34</sup> William Trevor Icton, tried to enlist in the war but was rejected because he was underage.

You want to go to the show with Willie + the girls. I got Dolly's card, it is a very nice verse that is in the inside. I will sign off with love to all.

From Your Loving + Affectionate Son,  
xxxxxxxxxx Harold

A wise old owl  
Lived up in an oak  
The more he heard  
The less he spoke  
The less he spoke  
The more he heard  
All soldiers should follow  
This wise old bird<sup>35</sup>

If everybody was like this old bird Hineys spy's would not get to know as much as they do.



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<sup>35</sup> An English nursery rhyme; refers to the traditional image of owls as a symbol of wisdom; this poem was used on a American wartime poster during the Second World War, circa 1941

France  
9 January 1917

Dear Sister,

Just a line to let you know I am feeling well, hoping you are the same. I am sending you two or three cards hoping you will like them. I thought you would like them to put in some post-card frames to hang on the wall. Hope Charles is keeping better. Hoping all are well at home. Good night.

From Your Loving Brother Jack xx











ON ACTIVE SERVICE.  
**SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.**  
CHAPLAIN SERVICE, CANADIAN CORPS.

14 January 1917

Dear Sister Dolly & Eva,

Received both your letters + was pleased to have them. You both will have to be content with this one between you. Will write separately to you when I have more time. I got the socks + handkerchief Mrs. B sent me + thank her for them. Have not got Mary[']s] or Bert[']s] or Lizzie S. parcels yet.

I am pleased Eva as got her teeth fixed. She will be better now. I had a letter from Dad + Mother. I hope Willie is better by now. Eva must have quite a time with Sonny posting the letters to soldier Jack + Daddy you will have to excuse [my] writing as I want to get it finished before dark + it is nearly dark now + we only have a candle light in the garret.

I hope you + Charlie keep well, also all of the others. Also hope you all had a good time at x-mas. So Sonny was pulling off all the old stamps to send to me. I never heard anything about Nan going to get married when I was there. I don't know of anything to talk about so I will close with love to you both,

From Your Loving + Affectionate Brother Harold  
will write more next time xxxxxxxx

18 January 1917

Dear Dolly,

Just a line hoping you are well as it leaves me at present. I received your letter + was pleased you all liked the cards + that you all had presents + had a pleasant x-mas.

Hope all your colds are better. We are having snow + pretty cold weather lately. I got a card + sent it to Mrs. B, she will be letting you see it. I had a parcel of cigs + tea tablets from Clara yesterday, also a parcel from Jack's mother. You will see mother's letter what was in. Sorry Charlie did not get his white horse. Wish I had got it, I would have felt pretty good after it. [I] am pleased mother wears her furs. Hope I will be able to take her out with them on next winter.

You will have got the letter telling you what sort of a x-mas + New Year we had. You have been in luck this x-mas, but you need not have made my mouth water with what you had for dinner. I received Dad's letter with yours tonight. [I] am writing to him. Wrote to mother last night. Have not much time to write. I write one at a time when I have the chance, so I will close with love to all,

From Your Loving + Affectionate Brother Harold xxxxxxxx

The postcards were all right + very good.

France  
3 February 1917

My Dear Sister,

I write you these few lines in answer to your welcome letter + I hope you all keeping in good health as we are at present. I had a letter from Mrs. Freshwater + Harry<sup>36</sup> is expecting to be called up again so she will be lonely without him. I have not had any news or anything from Lizzie Salmon, only one letter when we were in England, so I think she must write to the wrong address, but if I had her address I would write her a line when I had time. I had a letter from Father + Mrs. Robins + Mother[']s] letter day before yesterday when I came out of the trenches.

I don't think there is much to tell you because I can't say where I am or what I am doing or anything, only tell you how I am. I can't send a postcard now, only the silk ones<sup>37</sup> + a photo of yourself. I hope you got what cards I sent you + Eve + Theresa. Well dear Sister, I will close this short letter with lots of love + the best of kisses to you.

From Your Loving + Affectionate  
xxx Brother Jack xxx

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<sup>36</sup> Close family friends

<sup>37</sup> Colourful war-themed images were produced in abundance by major postcard publishers, many specifically designed to be purchased by soldiers on leave as souvenirs and gifts. Patriotic colours were commonly used. French and Belgian women working out of their homes or in refugee camps also produced such cards, hand embroidered on strips of delicate silk. The finished strips were often sent to out to factories to be cut and mounted with paper borders and backing (see postcards from November 28, 1916 and December 27, 1917).

*The following are examples of the silk “cards” Jack sent home to his mother & Dolly*



*“To My Dear Mother”*



*“A kiss from the trenches”*



*"Souvenir from Ypres"*



*"Souvenir de France"*

*France*

8 March 1917

Dear Sister,

Just a line in answer to your letter dated Feb 7. I hope you are well + all are well at home. John + I are pretty well just now, but it [h]as been very cold lately + I could not keep warm sometimes.

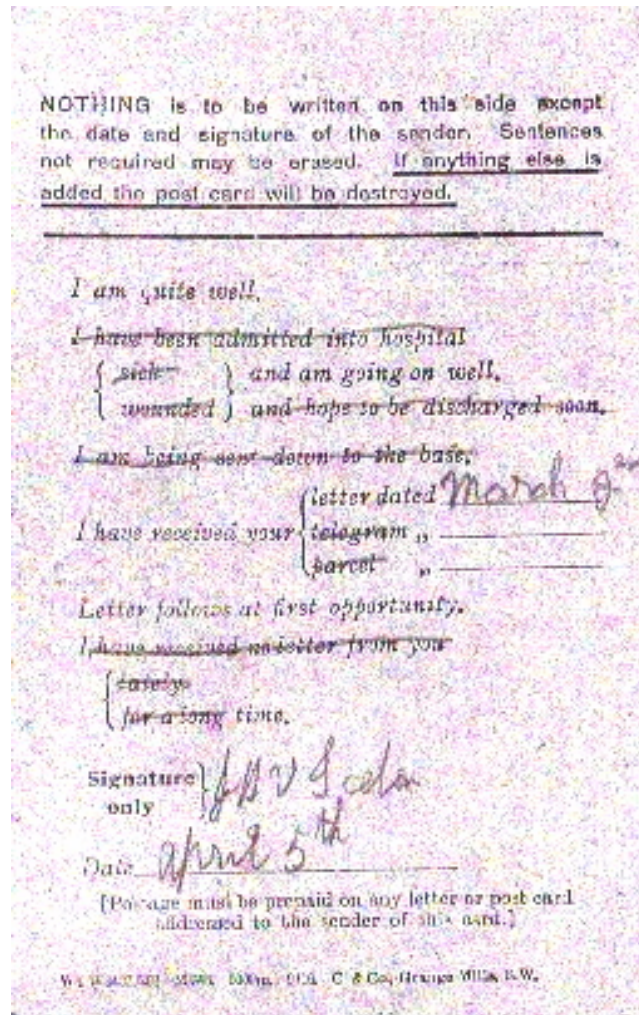
I am pleased you all got the cards alright. If I get to any place where I can get any, I will send you some more. I got Eve's photo with her letter, it was very good of her. H. Iceton 769402 D Comp 18 Batt CEF France.

So, Charlie's white horses are going thin. We'll get some more by the time I come home. I have not come across George Sutton yet. We are where he was but his Batt[alion] had left before we got here.

Well Dolly, I am sure it was the prayers you all say for us that saved John + I the other night when we were getting relieved, shells we[re] busting all around us + I never expected to get out, but it was God's will that we had to. Well I think I have told you all this time, so will close with love to all,

From Your Loving + Affectionate Brother Harold

This postcard was sent by Harold on April 5, 1917. This is a prime example of censorship during the First World War.<sup>38</sup>



<sup>38</sup> Censorship was strictly enforced during the war; the letters that soldiers wrote home from the trenches were edited by the Ministry of Defence. Any information regarding where the soldier was stationed or details of movement that the soldier was involved in would be obliterated. As a result, letters received by family and friends were often illegible. The government did not allow any talk or support of ideas that could be considered subversive or have the possibility of undermining the war effort or of giving information to spies.



**2**

*The following four letters were returned to Dolly as Harold did not reply or the letters were not delivered before his death on April 19, 1917; Harold died of gunshot wounds.*

23 February 1917

My Dear Brother Harold,

Glad to hear you are well + got lots of smokes. Don't you smoke much now? Hope the weather is better with you now. We are having a mixture, rain included. Well, I think all are pretty well at home, only Eveline [has] been sick; had the Grip<sup>39</sup> but is feeling better again. Cassie was up Thursday. She looks fine. I think I told you she was going west to Saskatoon, taking Willie with her, going about the 3 week in March just as if she had never been away from the house. Going on 2 years + 3 weeks since she was at home, but I suppose Mother will be telling you all.

Charlie went to try to get into the flying corps but did not manage to get right through. He passed all exams + all passed him but 1 [?] they are over from England taking recruits for the flying corps. They are going to be at Camp Borden, so Harry Freshwater is expecting to be called up any time now. He has been lucky, has he not? I think Jack Surrige does not care much for Crowborough.<sup>40</sup> He says its cold there, well I suppose he will have to put up with it, what say you?

Willie [is] still at home, no work for him at Eaton's, expect to be hiring soon. He[']s a terror, teases the life out of Mary. Mother never says a word to him. Tom was saying he[']s got done at the C.P.R.<sup>41</sup> Got started at a drill machine at Ingles, 30 cents an hour, 18 dollars a week. Not so bad what say you?

Well Harold I don't think there is anything new at present. Perhaps if I write you again I [will] have more news. All send their love to you from home + God Bless you + our Blessed Lady guide you from all harm. From your ever loving + affectionate sister,

Dolly

This is Saturday morning I have finished your letter my birthday 24-2-1917

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<sup>39</sup> Grippe; influenza

<sup>40</sup> A Canadian training camp; east Sussex, England

<sup>41</sup> Canadian Pacific Railway



21 March 1917

My Dear Brother Harold,

So many thanks for your ever welcome letter dated Feb. 10 1917. I was so pleased you were well. Hope your cold is quite gone. Mother had a letter from you last week + one from John this. Eveline had a p.c.<sup>42</sup> from you yesterday. We all are so pleased you both keep well.

Well, you would just love to see little Josephine.<sup>43</sup> She[’s] a dear. I really don’t know what Mother would do without her. Mother say[s] there[’s] not another baby like her + [as] tall as dad. Bert [is] home for a few days. He says you people spoil her. Why she [is] only 3 weeks old tomorrow Thursday + she likes Mother + is so good. Really Harold, you would love her. I think she[’s] going to be ginger. Bert is not coming for good until May the 1. He wants to make up some money. He[’s] tickled about his daughter.

Well Harold, you seem to be giving the Huns<sup>44</sup> it good. We all hope that you all will be with us all soon, please God.

Well kid, the landlord raised mothers rent 6 dollars more so she could not move just now, so Charlie and I are going to have the dining room + his bedroom + we are going to be married on May the 5. Bert + Mary are having the middle bedroom + living in with them in the kitchen. Of course Bert has no furniture, he sold all his. We are going to pay mother 10 dollars a month an[d] if Bert gives her 5 it will give her a chance + then if she see[s] a house in the mean time she can take it. Of course Charlie does not intend staying long in the city, he wants to get to the country. We will go to his aunt’s from Saturday ‘till Monday night<sup>45</sup> and we are going to have all quiet. When you boys come home we will have a big bust up. So what do you say?

---

<sup>42</sup> Postcard

<sup>43</sup> The first child of Bert and his wife Mary

<sup>44</sup> The Germans

<sup>45</sup> Refers to his relatives in Bradford, Ontario

Eveline is going to be my witness [and] Bert, Charlie's. Mother wrote to the Cannon<sup>46</sup> + sent [name?] for his Baptism certificate. Father McCam said if he sent for it, so now I suppose I'll have to ask Father to give me away. Well Harold, I suppose we must be getting ready that pig farm by the time you come back.

All pretty well at home, only had bad colds. Willie working at Murry Tops, 8 dollars a week. Eaton laid him off for weeks so that's better.

Well my dear, I must close. I want to get this letter to John in [be]for the mail closes tomorrow, so will say good afternoon + God Bless you + our Blessed Lady guide you from all harm. From your ever loving + affectionate sister,

Dolly xxxxxxxx

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<sup>46</sup> Canon: A priest or minister who is a member of certain bodies of the Christian clergy, subject to an ecclesiastical rule; in the Roman Catholic Church, the members of the chapters of a cathedral or of a collegiate church are canons.

4 April 1917

My Dear Brother Harold,

I could not tell you how glad we all were to get a letter from you. Funny, today I got my letter on Sat. March 31 + Mother + Dad all got your letter + John's on Monday, April 2 + your letter to me was dated March 8 + hers was March 3. Well, we were very thankful to know you were feeling pretty well, also that you were as you were when you wrote. I am sure it must be very trying for all of you but cheer up, please God, things will be a lot different soon. I was sorry you felt the cold so bad, but its been very cold here too, but we are having nice weather now, but cold nights + mornings.

Well Harold, I suppose you will have got my last letter by now. I hope you get the parcel with Mary Josephine's cake in. Oh, she[']s a fine kid. I really don't know, Harold, what Mother would do without her now. She would miss her if they went away, but Bert is going to get something in the city, so that's good. Mary went down to Lindsay on Tuesday morning + came back at night for Bert's money + Mother kept Baby all day + she never said a word. Mother gave her sugar + water until Mary came back + then she had a good drink. She gets so old fashioned. She was 1 month old last Sunday.

Well, all are well at home. Glad to say I think every person has about got rid of their colds. Charlie got a raise, he's getting \$14 a week now. We have not heard anything of the things you sent in Langford's parcel but we are going up to see if Mrs. Langford has got the parcel yet. Charlie knew where she lives. Margaret Annie + Bill + an American Lady was over, they came up to see us. Tom + Jenny brought them up. Margaret Annie wanted to take Mother back with her, she said it would do her good, but Mother said she would go over when her boys come back. They are just the same as ever.

Theresa is on Collage Street learning the Millenary business so we will be getting our hats done up cheap. Every person sends their love to you from home. You say right. Sonnie is getting so cute, well he [will] soon be 4 years old, but wait a bit, Josephine will be as cute. Mother talks to her + she looks + can even say goo. They are all daft over her + Dad's as bad.

Relieved + sad. Had a letter from George Sutton + his picture. He look[s] well. Mary Nelson been sick, she's going to Erin<sup>47</sup> for the weekend. Thomas + Mrs. Barker is off to Detroit before our Easter.

Now my dear I think [I have] told you all at present. I leave here 3 weeks on Saturday, April 28. I have 1 week at home to get ready.<sup>48</sup> Well, I think I draw my letter to a close.

Oh, Reannie Pearson is going to be married in June. Her Father is getting a house keeper + if he likes her, perhaps he'll get married too. Now well I say good night + God Bless you + our Blessed Lady guide you from all harm. From your loving + affectionate sister,

Dolly

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<sup>47</sup> Erin, Ontario is approximately an hour north-west of Toronto.

<sup>48</sup> Dolly explains how much time is left before her wedding

25 April 1917

My Dear Brother Harold,

Just a few lines to let you know how pleased we all were to get your letter[s] dated March 26 & 28. I am sorry you are not getting your letters + parcels but perhaps they will land later on. Glad John has seen George, no doubt by now you will have seen him too. Well Harold, [I] am pleased you keep well, thank God, for I am sure its cold + muddy with you. Oh if only this war was over + you all [came] back home again. Mother had a letter from Jack finally. He[’s] been off[f] on sick leave. Been to his home.

Seen Harry + Flo. Harry is still waiting to be called up. Well Harold, all are well at home. Little Josephine grows every time you see her + she coo so Mother is quite taken up with her, but she[’s] so fat.

Bert’s been working at McFrulls[?] <sup>49</sup> coal yard and \$8 a week he got paid up last night but he was going off this morning to seek another job. He won’t go farming. I leave Mrs. Barker on Saturday so I’ve only got 3 more days with her. <sup>50</sup>

Mother got my cake made. We[’ll] send you some when we cut into it. Hope you have got little Josephine’s cake by now. Margaret Bows has had the measles + they all have been quarantined. Eveline [has] not been home for 2 weeks nearly. She’s had blood poison in her hands. She was nearly crazy with the pain in it. Been to the doctor twice. Its going on all night now. Its raining fast + its so cold. We had a cover of snow last Monday morning early.

Willie was 15 last Friday. Mother got him a pair of boots, Theresa a pair of rosary beads + I gave him 4 handkers + his Boss a grand tie so he did not do bad. Charlie send[s] his love. He may be took Bert to the doctors on Monday night to pass to four the club [?].

Its a long time since we had any letters from England. I cannot think what has happened [to] all of them. I never had a letter from Lizzie Salmon since the beginning of the year.

Mother’s put the two big beds in the front room + the oil cloth out of the dining room in the front bedroom too + it looks nice. Took the other two beds up in the attic. Bert [h]as one, they sleep up there.

Well I think this is all for this time. All send there love to you from home. I am writing John a letter when I finish this, so will close with love + all good wishes. So, good night + God Bless you + our Blessed Lady guide you from all harm. From your ever loving + affectionate sister,

Dolly xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

---

<sup>49</sup> No company by this name appears in the Toronto City Directory for 1916; it may be McDowell Bros, 737 Queen Street West or W. M. McGill & CO., 168 Bathurst Street

<sup>50</sup> Dolly was in service as Mrs. Barker’s house at 157 Rusholme Avenue, Toronto until her marriage to Charles in May 1917; after the wedding, Dolly and Charles moved in with Dolly’s parents at 208 Bellwoods Avenue, Toronto.

**3**

*The following two letters were written to Dolly from John after Harold's death.*

27 April 1917

My Dear Sister Dolly,

Just a line to let you know how I am getting along. Well Dear Sister, I am very sorry to tell you about Harold getting wounded but I hope he is not so bad.<sup>51</sup> I have not heard from him yet and I hope he is getting along alright. I am fairly well myself just now. I have come out for a rest from the trenches. You will see by the papers that we have made a big advance.<sup>52</sup> You will be able to read more in the papers than I can tell you.

I received your letter today + I am pleased to know all is well at home + the baby is alright. Tell Mary I wish her the best of good wishes + hope she gets along O.K. Tell Bert I wish him the same + thanks. Also sorry to hear of Ms. Nelson being sick, remember me to her + hope she is better by now. I had a letter from Harry + Flo today + they got the order O.K. I don't think I can tell you any more just now, but I will write to mother today. So good night + God Bless you all.

From Your Loving Brother Jack xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

---

<sup>51</sup> Although Harold died on April 19, John is still unaware at the time this letter was written.

<sup>52</sup> Victory at Vimy Ridge (April 9-12, 1917) was considered a defining moment for Canada and the Canadian soldiers who captured the ridge.



27 June 1917

My Dear Sister Dolly,

Just a line hoping you are keeping alright + in the best of health. I received the piece of cake alright + it was very nice indeed. I hope you prosper + do well in your married life. Also people cannot say you married a slacker for I am sure Charles [h]as tried hard enough to enlist.<sup>53</sup>

I miss poor Harold very much. He [h]as given his life for his country + he was a good soldier too + you have got to be proud you had such a brother as him. I can say he had a good life while he was away in this country + he also put me on the right road too.

I have been in [the] hospital for a month + 2 weeks with trench fever<sup>54</sup> myself, but I feel pretty good now and hope to continue so. I have just received a letter from Jack + he told me he had just received a letter from home, Eve, but I have had no mail myself from Canada since I left the trenches, but I guess I will be getting a bunch come [one] of these days as all my mail would follow me around J.W. Iceton 769481 18<sup>th</sup> Batt c/o 2<sup>nd</sup> Entrenching Batt Canadians France.

Well Dear Sister, I have not much news to tell you so I will close with lots of love to you both, so good night + God Bless.

From Your Loving Brother Jack

XXXXXXXXXXXX

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<sup>53</sup> Charles tried to enlist, but was not eligible; it is believed this was because he had webbed feet.

<sup>54</sup> Trench fever was first reported in the trenches of the Western Front in December 1914. Symptoms included headaches, skin rashes, inflamed eyes, and leg pains; the condition was not particularly serious, and patients generally recovered after five or six days.

27 December 1917

To my Dear Sister + Brother  
With Best Wishes  
From Jack Your Loving Brother xxxxx

*Front of postcard*



**4**

*While the date was not written on this message, it is suspected that it was sent to Dolly before Jack and Harold left Canada as David died in battle on July 3, 1916.<sup>55</sup>*

To Dear Dolly,

I thank you for the handkerchief. I think it is lovely, so no more.  
With love from Daivy xxxxxxxxxx

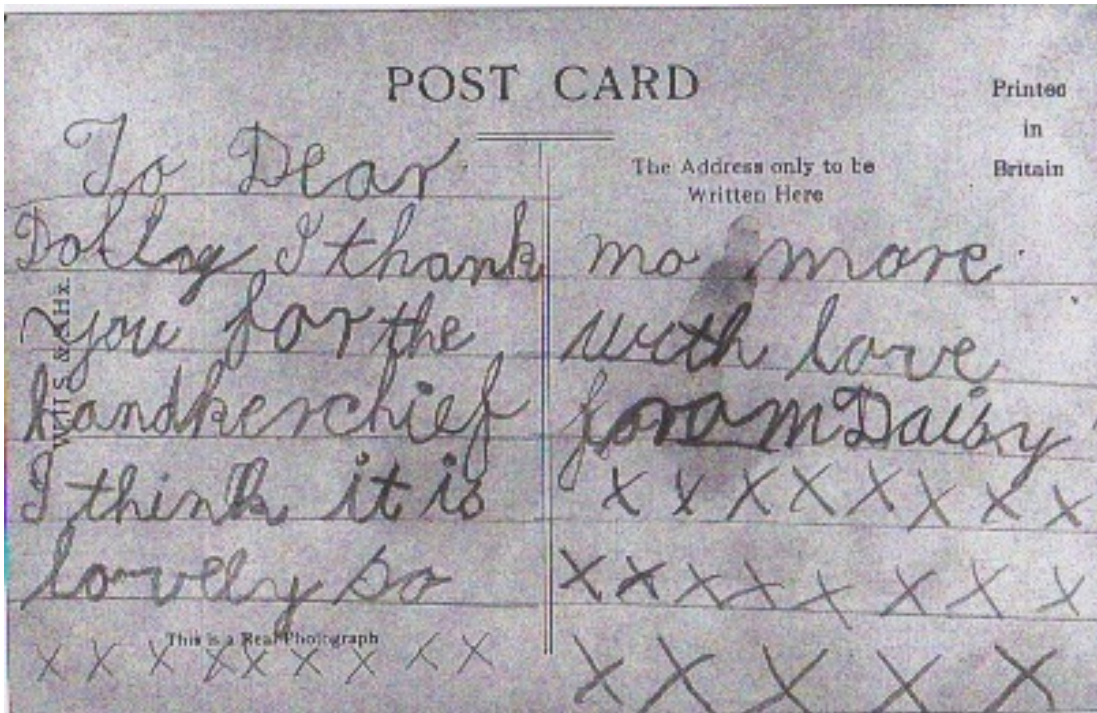


*The War Memorial in front of the Memorial Hall, Darlington Memorial Hospital  
David's name is one of 875 recorded on this monument*

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<sup>55</sup> Lance Corporal David Iceton # 20709, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Regiment; buried at Mericourt-L'Abbe Communal Cemetery Extension; David was Dolly's cousin

Postcard sent by David



4 July 1917

Dear Dolly,

Just a few lines hoping you are well as it leave[s] me at present. Well Dolly, I don't know if there is any letter from John. I don't know what is the matter around here. You[r] Mother is mad, she started on to me this morning because I ask[ed] her if she got me a loaf of bread. No, she did not get me any. When I came home one Monday I asked her if she wanted some eggs. She said no. I will tell you more when you come home. I had a letter from Brampton, they are wanting us to go on Sunday, as after Sunday they will be getting ready to go to Bradford. Well I think this is all at present,

I Remain Your Loving husband Charles xxxxxx

Remember me to all and the best of love to them.

In loving Memory of our Dear Son

Pte James Harold Vincent Icton  
No. 769402 of the 124th Battalion  
Transferred to the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian  
Died of wounds received at Vimy Ridge  
April 19, 1917

We mourn for him in silence  
But with no outward show  
For the heart that mourn sincerely  
Beat silently and low.

But the hardest part has yet to come  
When the heroes do return  
And we miss among the cheering crowd  
The one we loved to well.

Rest in peace

From Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers  
208 Bellwoods Ave  
Including Brother John in France<sup>56</sup>

*The following was written on the back of the envelope:*

The good Lord made the Luscious grapes to bless both great + small  
The little Fools drunk too much  
The Begones none at all

EJE Duncan

---

<sup>56</sup> This may have been written for the “In Memoriam” section of the Toronto Star newspaper when Harold died. Alternatively, Harold’s parents might have been asked to write an inscription for his tombstone.

In loving Memory of our Dear Son James Harold V. Iceton of the 18th Batt; Died April 19, 1917  
of wounds received at Vimy Ridge April 13, 1917. R.I.P.

Do not grieve my Dearest parent's

I only go a while before Farewell. Mother, Father, Sisters (Brothers so dear)

Till we meet to part no more<sup>57</sup>

Dry your eyes my weeping Mother

See the crown your son [h]as won

Try to say amid your sorrows

God knows best thy will be done

---

<sup>57</sup> Similar to a line inscribed on Harold's tombstone



# Appendix

**Figure 1:** James Harold Vincent Icton (left) and John Walker Icton (right)



**Figure 2:** Dorothy Catherine Walker (Iceton) Hoskinson



**Figure 3:** Charles Henry Hoskinson



**Figure 4: 124<sup>th</sup> Battalion**



**Figure 5:** A poem kept by Dolly (Iceton) Hoskinson; followed by original newspaper clipping

**They Lie in France, Where Lilies Bloom**

They lie in France  
Where lilies bloom;  
Those flowers pale  
That guards each tomb  
Are saintly souls  
That smiling stand  
Close by them in  
That martyred land,  
And mutely there the long night shadows creep  
From quiet hills to mourn for them who sleep  
While o'er them through the dusk go silently  
The grieving clouds that slowly drift to sea,  
And lately round them moaned the Winter wind  
Whose voice, lamenting, sounds so coldly kind,  
Yet in their faith those waiting hearts abide  
The time when turns forever that false tide.  
In France they lie  
Where lilies bloom,  
Those flowers fair  
For them made room.  
Not vainly placed  
The crosses stand  
Within that brace  
And stricken land;  
Their honor lives,  
Their love endures,  
Their noble death  
The right assures,  
For they shall have their hearts' desire  
They..who, unflinching, braved the fire,  
Across the fields their eyes at last shall see  
Through clouds and mist the hosts of victory.

Perceival Allen, in the New York Times.

## *They Lie in France, Where Lilies Bloom*

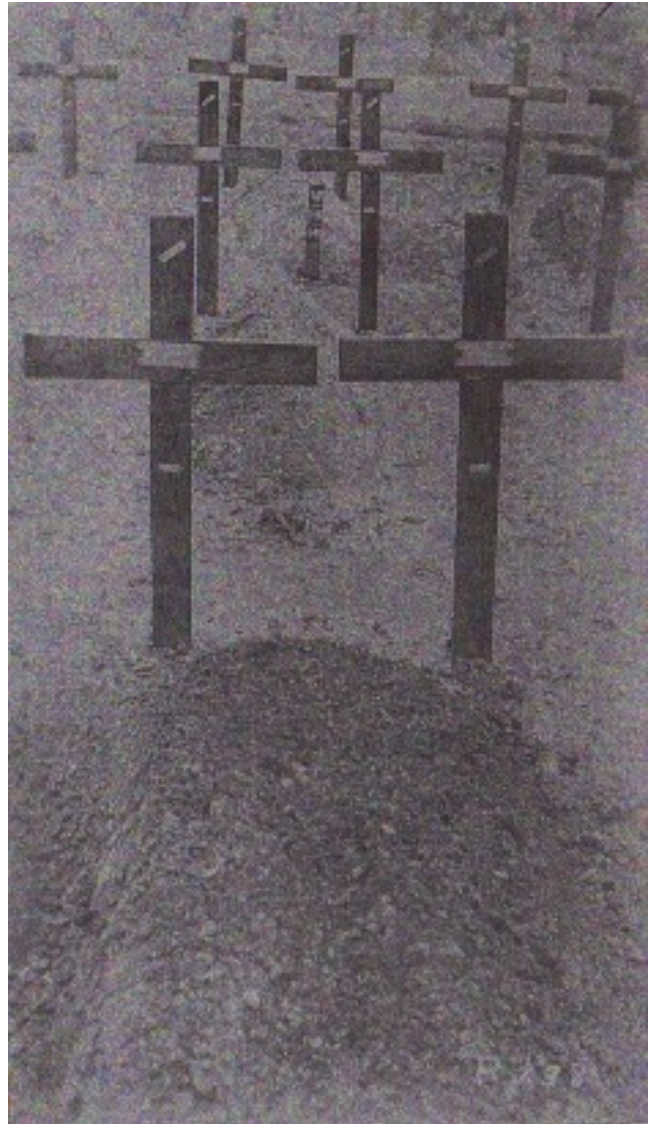
They lie in France  
Where lilies bloom;  
Those flowers pale  
That guard each tomb  
Are saintly souls  
That smiling stand  
Close by them in  
That martyred land.

And misty there the long night shadows creep  
From quiet hills to mourn for them who sleep,  
While o'er them through the dusk go silently  
The grieving clouds that slowly drift to sea,  
And lately round them moaned the Winter wind  
Whose voice, lamenting, sounds so coldly kind,  
Yet in their faith those waiting hearts abide  
The time when turns forever that false tide.

In France they lie  
Where lilies bloom,  
Those flowers fair  
For them made room,  
Not vainly placed  
The crosses stand  
Within that brave  
And stricken land;  
Their honor lives,  
Their love endures,  
Their noble death  
The right assures.

For they shall have their hearts' desire  
They who, unflinching, braved the fire,  
Across the fields their eyes at last shall see  
Through clouds and mist the hosts of victory.

—Percy Allen, in the New York Times.



1920  
This is Tom's grave.  
+

**Figure 7:** Harold's tombstone in Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension:  
*"Till the dawn we will meet to part no more Mother and Dad."*





Figure 8: Harold's name on page 261 in the *Book of Remembrance*, Ottawa



Pte.	Hutchings, Edward.	124 <sup>+</sup> Pnr. Bn.	Pte.	Imison, Arthur Oswald.	C. I. H.
Pte.	Hutchings, William George.	72 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Imlouy, Oliver Gilbert.	87 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchings, William James.	44 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Spr.	Imray, John M <sup>c</sup> Leod.	4 <sup>+</sup> C. R. T.
Pte.	Hutchings, Williams John.	5 <sup>+</sup> M. G. Coy.	Pte.	Imrie, Everard Bell.	18 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Major	Hutchins, Horace.	21 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ince, Fred.	102 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
L. Cpl.	Hutchinson, Angus.	P.P.C.L.I.	Pte.	Inch, Frank William.	P.P.C.L.I.
Sgt.	Hutchinson, Charles.	2 <sup>+</sup> Tun. Coy.	Pte.	Ind, George.	38 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Lieut.	Hutchinson, Frank Oliver.	85 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ingalls, Arthur Allen.	87 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Capt.	Hutchinson, Frederick Mellor.	1 <sup>+</sup> Fld. Coy.	Pte.	Ingalls, Carl Daniel; M. M.	24 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchinson, Hector Earle.	26 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ingham, James.	73 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchinson, John George.	19 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ingham, John William.	46 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchinson, Milton.	3 <sup>+</sup> Pnr. Bn.	Pte.	Inglis, Andrew.	46 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchinson, Reginald Hugh.	R. C. R.	Pte.	Inglis, John Robert.	46 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Gnr.	Hutchinson, Walter Thomas.	4 <sup>+</sup> D. A. C.	Pte.	Inglis, Joseph.	31 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchinson, William Edward.	8 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Gnr.	Inglis, William.	3 <sup>+</sup> Bde. C.F.A.
Pte.	Hutchison, Daniel.	1 <sup>+</sup> C. M. R.	Pte.	Inglis, William.	27 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Major	Hutchison, Harry, D.S.O., M.C.	3 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Inglis, William Kenneth.	1 <sup>+</sup> M.M.G. Bde.
Pte.	Hutchison, James.	50 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Cpl.	Ingram, Arthur George.	21 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchison, John Dolphin.	50 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ingram, Earl.	73 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Spr.	Hutchison, Joseph.	3 <sup>+</sup> C. R. T.	Sgt.	Ingram, Fraser.	119 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchison, Steven Dunn.	5 <sup>+</sup> C. M. R.	Pte.	Ingram, John James.	31 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchison, Thomas.	78 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ingram, John Norman.	5 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Lieut.	Hutchison, Thomas Wilson.	116 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ingram, Zeb Vance.	C. I. H.
Pte.	Hutchison, William.	49 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Cpl.	Ings, John.	29 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutchison, William George.	49 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	L. Cpl.	Inkster, Alexander.	72 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hull, Robert Edward.	44 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Inman, Wilson.	20 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutton, Clemens Percy Richmond.		Pte.	Innes, Allen.	P.P.C.L.I.
		31 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Innes, George.	44 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Sgt.	Hutton, George; M. M.	2 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Inslay, Ernest Alfred.	2 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutton, Peter.	5 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ion, John Anthony.	2 <sup>+</sup> C. M. R.
Sgt.	Hutton, Thomas Lewis, M. M.	17 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Iredale, Theodore Gladstone.	19 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hutton, William Young.	72 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ireland, Herbert Edward.	5 <sup>+</sup> C. M. R.
Lieut.	Huxham, William Spencer.	5 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Capt.	Ireland, Richard Alfred.	C. A. M. C.
Pte.	Huxley, Fred Russell.	31 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ireland, Thomas.	52 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hyatt, John Bradney Ward.	75 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irish, David Earl.	2 <sup>+</sup> Pnr. Bn.
Pte.	Hyde, David.	3 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Gnr.	Irish, Elijah Samuel.	F. Bty. A. A.
Spr.	Hyde, Frederick.	10 <sup>+</sup> C. R. T.	Pte.	Irish, Frank Elva.	47 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hyder, Percy Amos.	P.P.C.L.I.	Pte.	Irish, Samuel Otto.	28 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Cpl.	Hydd, Walter James.	2 <sup>+</sup> C. R. T.	Pte.	Ironsides, Allan.	28 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hyland, Frederick.	116 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	C. S. M.	Ironsides, John Percy; M. M.	1 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hynde, John.	2 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Ironsides, Leonard John.	107 <sup>+</sup> Pnr. Bn.
Pte.	Hyndman, John.	73 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irvin, Alexander.	28 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hynds, Cecil.	52 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irvin, Charles Frederick.	46 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hynds, Peter.	17 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Spr.	Irvin, James.	3 <sup>+</sup> Tun. Coy.
Pte.	Hynes, Edward.	16 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irvin, Richard.	26 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Spr.	Hynes, Thomas.	3 <sup>+</sup> Tun. Coy.	L. Cpl.	Irvin, Robert Fraser.	54 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hynes, Thomas Johnston.	54 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irvin, Thomas.	44 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Hymek, Roger John.	35 <sup>+</sup> Coy. C. F. C.	Pte.	Irvin, Thomas John.	75 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
			Pte.	Irvin, William Peter.	3 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
			Sgt.	Irving, Archibald M <sup>c</sup> Leod.	42 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
			Pte.	Irving, David.	50 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
			L. Cpl.	Irving, James.	1 <sup>+</sup> 1. qb. Bn.
Pte.	Ibbetson, Frank Horace.	50 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irving, James.	26 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Ibbotson, Frederick Bismark.	26 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irving, Mathew Stanley Shaw.	27 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
L. Cpl.	Ibbotson, Allan.	10 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irving, Roger.	50 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Icceton, James Harold Vincent.	18 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irving, Thomas.	10 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Icceton, William Jackson.	21 <sup>+</sup> Coy. C. F. C.	Lt. Col.	Irving, Thomas Craik; D.S.O.	
Cpl.	Iden, Orval Yax.	10 <sup>+</sup> Bn.			2 <sup>+</sup> Fld. Coy.
L. Cpl.	Igglesden, Arthur Robert.	50 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irwin, Archibald.	8 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Ihken, Frederick.	4 <sup>+</sup> C. M. R.	Spr.	Irwin, David Fannerson.	6 <sup>+</sup> C. R. T.
Pte.	Iler, Eugene Phiners.	64 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irwin, Edgar Edward.	21 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Iertson, Carl.	R. C. R.	Pte.	Irwin, Frederick Arthur.	21 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Gnr.	Illingworth, Henry.	1 <sup>+</sup> Bde. C. F. A.	Pte.	Irwin, Henry.	16 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Illingworth, James.	1 <sup>+</sup> Bn.	Pte.	Irwin, James Norman.	44 <sup>+</sup> Bn.
Pte.	Ilyuk, Mike.	54 <sup>+</sup> Bn.			

Figures 9 & 10: Harold's death certificates

M.A.H.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

This is to certify that No. 769402,  
Private James Harold Vincent Ieeton, 18th Overseas  
Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, has been  
officially reported as having died at No. 30  
Casualty Clearing Station, France, on the 19th  
day of April, 1917, of wounds (gunshot wound head  
and right side) received in action.

On attestation, he gave the name and  
address of his next of kin as follows:-

Mrs. Theresa Mary Ieeton, (Mother),  
208 Bellwoods Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario.

*W. E. Hoagins*  
Major-General,  
a/Adjutant-General.

August 27th, 1917.



# Canadian Expeditionary Force

## DEATH CERTIFICATE

This is to Certify that the records at Militia Headquarters show that on the nineteenth day of April 1917, 769402 Private James Harold Vincent Sciton 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, died of wounds.

Militia Headquarters,  
Ottawa, Ont.

May 5<sup>th</sup> 1917



*[Signature]*  
Major General,  
Adjutant General.

## **Acknowledgments**

All of the letters, postcards, photos, and newspaper clippings used in this book (with the exception of the Wise Owl wartime poster) are part of a personal collection belonging to Louise Rita Sabourin, granddaughter of Dorothy and Charles Hoskinson. I am thankful for her generous contribution to this project and her enthusiasm along the way.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Jonathan Vance for the opportunity to compile and edit these letters, as well as for his continuous guidance that saw this project to completion.