

# Robert MASTERS

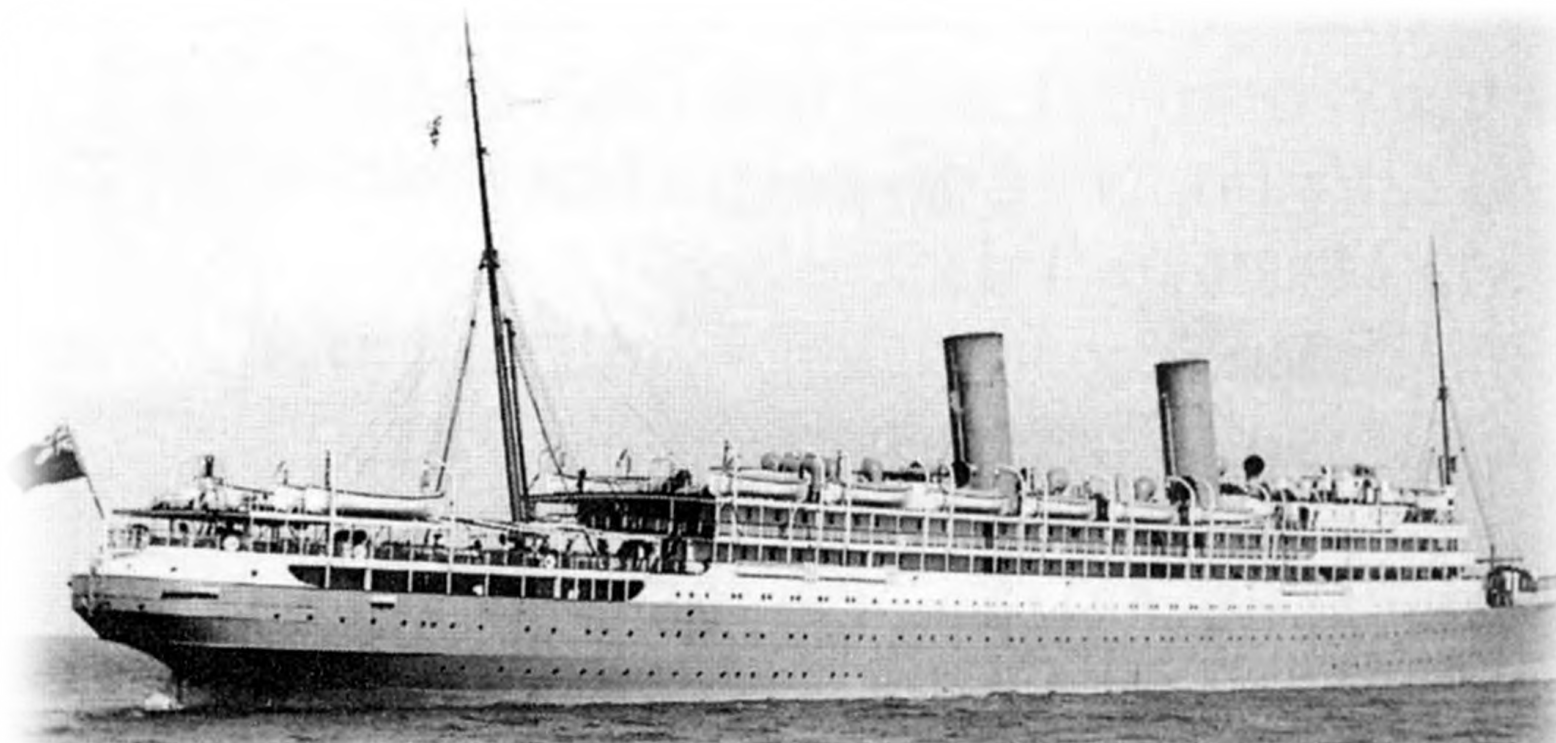
Private 812227, 47th Battalion Canadian Infantry

Died September 2nd 1918, aged 30

Commemorated at Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, France

Robert Masters was born at Port Quin on October 14th 1887, to John and Ann Masters. He was a cousin of *Albert Masters*. In 1901 John (46), a horse keeper on a farm, and Ann (49) had moved to Trelights village, where Robert (13) was living with his three brothers; William (20), Fred (10) and Albert (8). In 1906, Robert joined the Royal Navy's Devonport training depot HMS Vivid, but bought himself out three weeks later. Presumably the navy life was not for him.

On April 3rd 1912 Robert and his younger brother Fred left Bristol on the RMS Royal Edward to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Interestingly, they went second class. At that time second class to Canada was around \$50 (£12.50), when third was \$32 (£8). His occupation in 1906 was a farm labourer, whose wages were less than a £1 a week.



RMS Royal Edward

SS102393  
 Name in full: Robert Masters  
 Date of Birth: 14 October 1887  
 Place of Birth: Port Quin, Nova Scotia  
 Occupation and former R.M. or R.N.: 1. Farm labourer, 2. Gunner  
 Period of Service: Robert Masters (8)  
 Character: 1st Class  
 Twice and Period of U.S. Engagements: None  
 Height and Chest: 5'3 1/2", 36"  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Complexion: Ruddy  
 Remarks: 1st Great War award of 1st Class War Medal & 1st Class War Medal  
 2nd Great War award of 1st Class War Medal & 1st Class War Medal

Robert Masters brief service at HMS Vivid in 1906

Name of Ship: Royal Edward  
 Steamship Line: Royal  
 Date of Departure: 3rd April 1912  
 Where bound: Halifax N.S.

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF Bristol

| No.  | Names of Passengers      | Class | Port at which Passengers have contracted to land | Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers | AGES OF PASSENGERS          |                           |         |      |        |         | Country of last Permanent Residence | Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence |
|------|--------------------------|-------|--|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|--|
|      |                          |       |  |   | Adults 12 years and upwards | Children between 1 and 12 | Infants | Male | Female | Infants |                                     |  |
| 2023 | Mr Joseph R. Britton     | 2nd   | Halifax N.S.                                     | Farming   | 31                          |                           |         |      |        |         | Canada                              |  |
| 2024 | Mr Allan Fowler          |       |  | Electrician                                     | 24                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2025 | Mr Wm. F. Cox            |       |  | Farming   | 24                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2139 | Mr John Dennis           |       |  | Farmer  | 54                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2140 | Mr Sydney Alton Williams |       |  | Business  | 44                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
|      | Mr Amelia Adams          |       |  | Wife  | 44                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
|      | Mr Sydney                |       |  | Barber  | 24                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
|      | Mr Cyril                 |       |  | Clark   | 17                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2149 | Mr Reginald Percy Gale   |       |  | Barber  | 21                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2150 | Mr Keith H. W. Williams  |       |  | Teacher   | 23                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2151 | Mr Saml Wm. Cook         |       |  | Farming   | 27                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2152 | Mr David Lyndell White   |       |  | Farming   | 17                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2153 | Mr Alf Geo. Harbridge    |       |  | Farmer  | 36                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2154 | Mr Annie Jane Ferguson   |       |  | Wife  | 29                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2155 | Mr Geo. Russell Eastwood |       |  | Farmer  | 51                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
|      | Mr Margaret E.           |       |  | Wife  | 46                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
|      | Mr Maggie                |       |  | Sister  | 14                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |
| 2157 | Mr Robert Masters        |       |  | Farming   | 29                          |                           |         |      |        |         |                                     |  |

Passenger list with Robert and his brother Frederick bound for Canada

The 138th Battalion departed Halifax for England on the SS Olympic on August 22nd 1916. The battalion was subsequently dispersed, with Robert assigned to the 47th Battalion, which, in 1918, was attached to the 10th Canadian Brigade as part of the 4th Canadian Division. In September 1918, the 47th was billeted at Beaurains, south of Arras, when they were ordered to attack the German Drocourt-Queant trench system around the village of Dury, eight miles to the east. The attack started at 5am on September 2nd with the men advancing behind a creeping barrage of our own artillery to find uncut barbed wire, machine guns, a heavy enemy barrage and some gas. These were all overcome but the war diary records 14 'Other Ranks' were killed that day, with 34 missing, which would have included Robert Masters.

Robert had moved over 2,000 miles further east to Edmonton, Alberta, when he signed up to the 138th Battalion, Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on July 20th 1916 (his brother Frederick had joined the 138th in January). He gave his occupation as labourer (his brother gave his as a farmer).

ATTESTATION PAPER  
 CANADIAN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
 QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION:  
 1. What is your surname? Robert  
 2. What are your Christian names? Robert  
 3. What is your present address? Edmonton, Alberta  
 4. In what town, township or parish, and in what County were you born? Leduc, Alberta  
 5. What is the name of your next of kin? Mrs. J. H. Williams  
 6. What is the address of your next of kin? 100 St. James St. N. W. Edmonton, Alberta  
 7. Are you married? No  
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or inoculated? No  
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Service? No  
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No  
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes  
 12. Are you willing to be attached to the 138th Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force? Yes

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION:  
 I, Robert Masters, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made by me in this paper, and to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, and to be subject to any order of the General Staff, for the term of one year, or during the war, or until the termination of that war, provided the Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

DATUM TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION:  
 I, Robert Masters, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will be duly bound to carry out faithfully and to the best of my power, the orders and regulations of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE:  
 The Board above named was examined by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions, he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
 I have taken care that the undersigned read and understood the above questions, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as printed, and that the said Board has read and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, and that he is a British subject.

Robert Masters' enlistment papers



The massive extent of German barbed wire defences at Queant

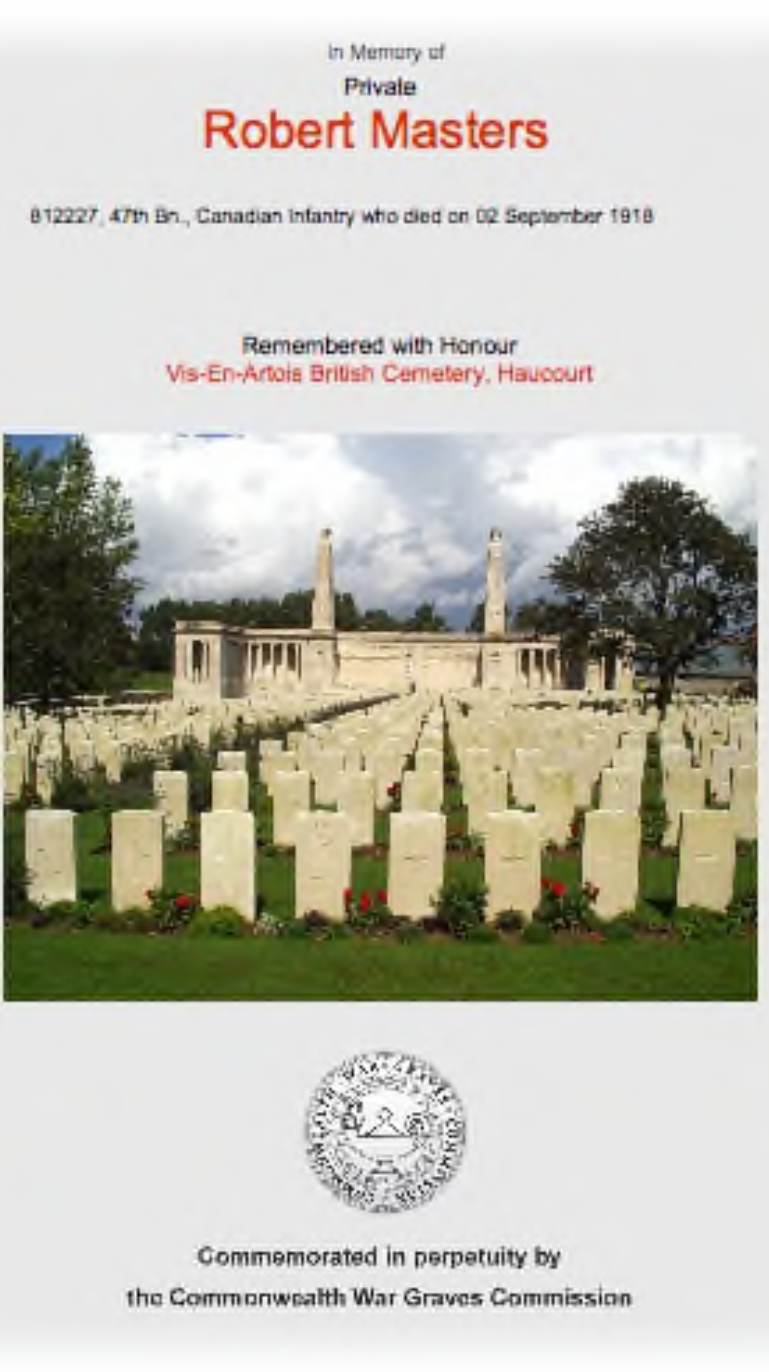


British troops stop to inspect wrecked German vehicles at Drocourt-Queant

WAR DIARY  
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY  
 Summary of Events and Information  
 FIELD 1-9-18  
 WIND - S.W. WEATHER - Fine. OBSERVATION - Good.  
 The Battalion received its orders to move at 3.00 P.M. into the Forward Area, preparatory to attacking the DROCOURT-QUEANT trench system. The march was made via MARVILLE and MARVILLE VILLAGE to the Assembly Positions allotted to the Battalion which were reached about 5.00 A.M. on the 2nd inst. An enemy gas concentration was encountered when crossing Remy Valley but no casualties were incurred.  
 2-9-18  
 WIND - S.W. WEATHER - Fine. OBSERVATION - Good.  
 The Battalion strength - 29 Officers, 725 Other Ranks, 725.  
 The Battalion reached its assembly positions in front of SERVIN COMBES at 2.00 A.M. 2nd Co. was left to guard the Assembly Positions, while 1st and 3rd Companies were left to attack the trench system. The attack was ordered by creeping barrage, which was extended to the objective at 5.00 A.M. The support companies were ordered to advance on reaching the 2nd line, according to plan, and the support companies advanced to the trench system put up a stiff gas resistance, chiefly by their machine gunners, but the whole was very quickly overrun, and either killed or taken prisoner. The trench system was captured by the Battalion which were reached about 5.00 A.M. on the 2nd inst. An enemy gas concentration was encountered when crossing Remy Valley but no casualties were incurred.  
 The number of prisoners taken by the Battalion was approximately 500. On subsequent orders, the Battalion was sent to the QUANTY IN DURE, and after reorganizing, took up a new Assembly position on the western slope of MONT DURE, ready to continue the advance. During the attack, the Battalion was supported by 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th, 679th, 680th, 681st, 682nd, 683rd, 684th, 685th, 686th, 687th, 688th, 689th, 690th, 691st, 692nd, 693rd, 694th, 695th, 696th, 697th, 698th, 699th, 700th, 701st, 702nd, 703rd, 704th, 705th, 706th, 707th, 708th, 709th, 710th, 711st, 712th, 713th, 714th, 715th, 716th, 717th, 718th, 719th, 720th, 721st, 722nd, 723rd, 724th, 725th, 726th, 727th, 728th, 729th, 730th, 731st, 732nd, 733rd, 734th, 735th, 736th, 737th, 738th, 739th, 740th, 741st, 742nd, 743rd, 744th, 745th, 746th, 747th, 748th, 749th, 750th, 751st, 752nd, 753rd, 754th, 755th, 756th, 757th, 758th, 759th, 760th, 761st, 762nd, 763rd, 764th, 765th, 766th, 767th, 768th, 769th, 770th, 771st, 772nd, 773rd, 774th, 775th, 776th, 777th, 778th, 779th, 780th, 781st, 782nd, 783rd, 784th, 785th, 786th, 787th, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st, 792nd, 793rd, 794th, 795th, 796th, 797th, 798th, 799th, 800th, 801st, 802nd, 803rd, 804th, 805th, 806th, 807th, 808th, 809th, 810th, 811st, 812th, 813th, 814th, 815th, 816th, 817th, 818th, 819th, 820th, 821st, 822nd, 823rd, 824th, 825th, 826th, 827th, 828th, 829th, 830th, 831st, 832nd, 833rd, 834th, 835th, 836th, 837th, 838th, 839th, 840th, 841st, 842nd, 843rd, 844th, 845th, 846th, 847th, 848th, 849th, 850th, 851st, 852nd, 853rd, 854th, 855th, 856th, 857th, 858th, 859th, 860th, 861st, 862nd, 863rd, 864th, 865th, 866th, 867th, 868th, 869th, 870th, 871st, 872nd, 873rd, 874th, 875th, 876th, 877th, 878th, 879th, 880th, 881st, 882nd, 883rd, 884th, 885th, 886th, 887th, 888th, 889th, 890th, 891st, 892nd, 893rd, 894th, 895th, 896th, 897th, 898th, 899th, 900th, 901st, 902nd, 903rd, 904th, 905th, 906th, 907th, 908th, 909th, 910th, 911st, 912th, 913th, 914th, 915th, 916th, 917th, 918th, 919th, 920th, 921st, 922nd, 923rd, 924th, 925th, 926th, 927th, 928th, 929th, 930th, 931st, 932nd, 933rd, 934th, 935th, 936th, 937th, 938th, 939th, 940th, 941st, 942nd, 943rd, 944th, 945th, 946th, 947th, 948th, 949th, 950th, 951st, 952nd, 953rd, 954th, 955th, 956th, 957th, 958th, 959th, 960th, 961st, 962nd, 963rd, 964th, 965th, 966th, 967th, 968th, 969th, 970th, 971st, 972nd, 973rd, 974th, 975th, 976th, 977th, 978th, 979th, 980th, 981st, 982nd, 983rd, 984th, 985th, 986th, 987th, 988th, 989th, 990th, 991st, 992nd, 993rd, 994th, 995th, 996th, 997th, 998th, 999th, 1000th.

47th Division War Diary for September 2nd 1918

Private Robert Masters is commemorated at the Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, a mile from where he fell.



His brother Frederick survived the war, returning to Canada on the Aquitania in January 1919. Their mother and father died within a few weeks of each other in 1917, and are buried in St Endellion church.



Sources

Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_Overseas\\_Expeditionary\\_Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Overseas_Expeditionary_Force)  
 47th Battalion War Diaries: via [http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html)

The memorial to Robert Masters' parents in St Endellion Churchyard