

Irving Hardy - WW1



(original photo enhanced with AI technology)

1. Personal Profile & Enlistment

- Regimental Number: 902000 (Hardy Irvi... p. 1).
- Rank: Private (Pte.) (Hardy Irvi... p. 1).
- Civilian Trade: Farmer (Hardy Irvi... p. 14).
- Next-of-Kin: His father, William Hardy, residing in Lakevale, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (Hardy Irvi... pp. 25, 29).
- Enlistment Alteration: Irving was actually born on September 26, 1898 (Hardy Irvi... p. 1). When he signed his attestation papers on March 21, 1916, at Antigonish, he was only 17 years old (Hardy Irvi... p. 1). To meet the minimum age requirement for overseas combat, he lied on his application, listing his age as 18 (Hardy Irvi... p. 14).
- Initial Unit: He originally joined the 193rd Overseas Battalion, CEF (Hardy Irvi... p. 1).

2. Deployment & Transatlantic Journey (1916)

- The Voyage: Private Hardy embarked from Halifax on October 12, 1916, aboard the S.S. *Olympic* (the sister ship of the *Titanic*) (Hardy Irvi... p. 13).
- Arrival: He disembarked at Liverpool, England, on October 18, 1916, and was routed to the training grounds at Witley Camp (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).
- Unit Reassignment: On December 29, 1916, the 193rd Battalion was broken up to provide reinforcements (Hardy Irvi... p. 23). Hardy was officially Taken on Strength (T.O.S.) by the 185th Overseas Battalion (Cape Breton Highlanders) (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

3. Hospitalization in England (Early 1917)

Shortly after arriving at his new unit, Hardy fell victim to a contagious illness that swept through the training camps:

- Admitted: January 20, 1917, to the Military Isolation Hospital at Aldershot (Hardy Irvi... p. 32).
- Diagnosis: Mumps (logged medically as *Parotiditis*) (Hardy Irvi... pp. 9, 17).
- Discharged: February 10, 1917, after 21 days of isolation and recovery, returning to regular duty at Witley (Hardy Irvi... pp. 17, 32).

4. Frontline Service & Combat History (1918–1919)

After spending more than a year training in England, Hardy proceeded overseas to France on March 1, 1918 (Hardy Irvi... p. 23). He was transferred to a legendary frontline combat shock-unit: The Royal Canadian Regiment (R.C.R.) (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

The Royal Canadian Regiment (R.C.R.) is the oldest and most senior regular force infantry regiment in the Canadian Army. Known colloquially as "The Royals, or the RCR's" the regiment is famous for its strict discipline, unique traditions, and its presence at almost every major conflict in Canadian military history.

He arrived in the trenches on March 5, 1918, and fought continuously through the bloodiest campaigns of the war, including Canada's Hundred Days (Hardy Irvi... p. 23). His service ledger places him in the field during the following major battles:

- The Battle of Amiens (August 8–11, 1918) – The surprise mechanical offensive that broke the German lines (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

The Battle of Amiens (August 8–11, 1918) was the opening phase of Canada's Hundred Days and one of the most decisive Allied victories of the First World War. It completely broke the stalemate of trench warfare, causing a collapse in German military morale from which the German Empire never recovered.

- The Battle of the Scarpe / Drocourt-Quéant Line (late August 1918) – Crushing the concrete outer shield of the Hindenburg Line (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

The Battle of the Scarpe (August 26–30, 1918) was a crucial second phase of Canada's Hundred Days. Following their success at Amiens, the Canadian Corps was moved back north to the Arras sector with the mission to drive the German army eastward and punch through their formidable defensive lines.

- The Battle of Cambrai & Canal du Nord (September–October 1918) – The high-risk crossing of the flooded canal bed to capture Bourlon Wood (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

The Battle of Cambrai and Canal du Nord (September 27 – October 11, 1918) was one of the most brilliant—and high-risk—military operations of the First World War (p. 48). Directed by Canadian Commander Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie, the offensive shattered the main spine of Germany's Hindenburg Line and forced a chaotic enemy retreat across the Western Front.

- The Pursuit to the Selle & Liberation of Valenciennes (October–November 1918) – Driving the retreating German army out of its final strongholds in France (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

Following the capture of Cambrai, the Allied armies relentlessly pursued the retreating German forces across northern France, culminating in the fierce battles along the Selle River and the strategic liberation of Valenciennes.

- The Capture of Mons (November 10–11, 1918) – Pushing into Belgium, where the R.C.R. secured the city at the exact moment the Armistice ceasefire took effect (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

The Capture of Mons (November 9–11, 1918) was the final, highly symbolic military engagement fought by the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. Occurring in the closing hours of Canada's Hundred Days, it effectively brought the First World War to a dramatic and poignant conclusion.

Hardy survived the entire heavy combat campaign completely uninjured. On January 8, 1919, he was granted 14 days of well-deserved leave to the United Kingdom (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

5. Formal Military Discharge (March 1919)

Following the end of hostilities, Hardy proceeded back to England on January 31, 1919, to clear his military accounts at Bramshott Camp (Hardy Irvi... p. 23).

- The Voyage Home: On March 1, 1919, he boarded his return transport vessel at Liverpool and sailed back across the Atlantic, arriving in Halifax on March 9, 1919 (Hardy Irvi... p. 24).
- Official Discharge Date: March 15, 1919, at Dispersal Station "B" in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Hardy Irvi... pp. 27, 41).
- Reason for Discharge: Fully cleared under general Demobilization (Hardy Irvi... pp. 27, 41). His final medical review on February 21, 1919, explicitly noted he was leaving the service in "Good" health with "No Disability" (Hardy Irvi... p. 35).
- Post-War Recognition: He was issued a Class "A" War Service Badge (No. 233292) (Hardy Irvi... pp. 27, 41). He returned to his family's farm in Antigonish County as a veteran of the Great War, having survived the trenches before technically even reaching his 21st birthday (Hardy Irvi... pp. 1, 41).