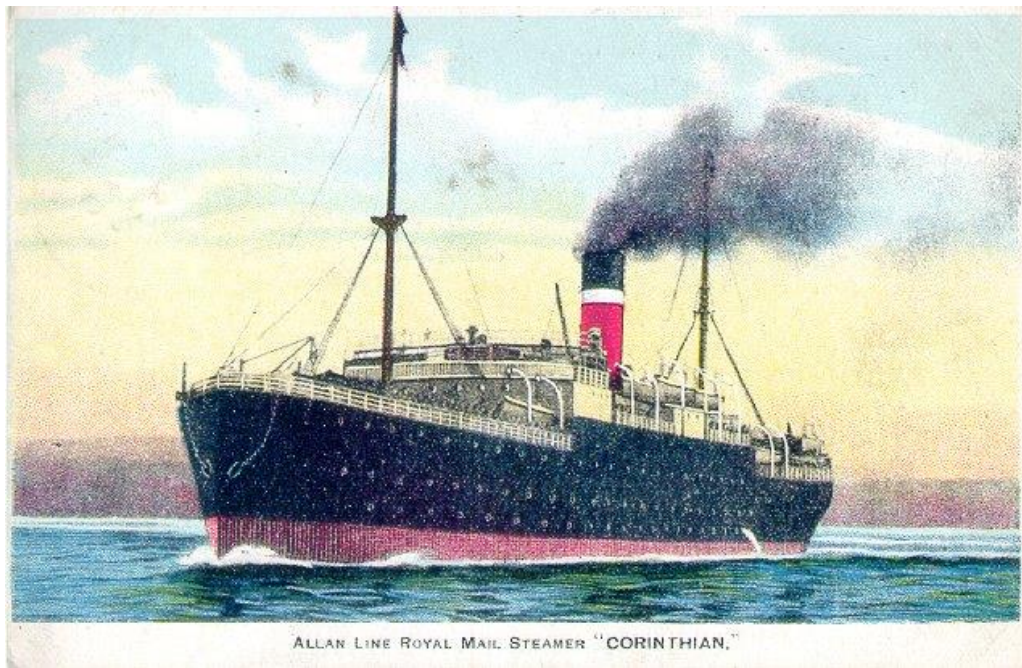


ARTHUR WILLIAM DENNING, 88th Btn Canadian Expeditionary Force, The Victoria Fusiliers

Arthur was born on 16th June 1895 in Buckland St Mary, and baptised there on 11th August that year. His parents were Edwin and Sarah Denning. His younger brother, Cecil Robert John, also served – see his entry for further family details. We haven't been able to discover where either of them went to school. By 1911 Arthur, aged 15, was working as a cow boy on Windsor Farm, Luppitt for William Rosewell.

How long he worked there we don't know, but on 9th May 1913 he sailed on the *SS Corinthian* from Plymouth to Quebec. He was listed as a farm labourer - most likely seeking adventure and a new life.



The Times Monday 23rd December 1918

But then in 1914 came the war, and on 11th January 1916 Arthur enlisted in the 88th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (The Victoria Fusiliers). He was 5' 5" tall, with blue eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion; he described himself as a farmer, and was still single. (His attestation papers are on our WW1 website).

The Battalion received marching orders on 20th May 1916 which reportedly were received with cheers of enthusiasm from officers and men. Three days later the first units of the Battalion sailed to the UK aboard the *SS Princess Charlotte*. Others followed on the White Star Liner *Olympic* a week later.

Once in England, and based initially at Westenhanger near Hythe in Kent, the Battalion was absorbed into the 30th Reserve Battalion on 18th July 1916. and became, in practice, a recruiting organisation – providing reinforcements for front line regiments and support/service battalions.



*(below) 88th Battalion boarding SS Princess Charlotte
in Victoria Harbour, British Columbia*



We have no details of Arthur's war-time service but a diary entry from Harold Hartley Littler (who travelled in the second transport on 30th May) details his journey, his time in England, and subsequent transfer to a Pioneer Battalion. By September Harold was working alongside and supporting the front-line troops, and remained in France and Belgium for the remainder of the war. It seems likely that Arthur's experience was similar.

Early in 1919, and back in the UK, Arthur married Florence May Prince in Taunton – she was from Kings Norton, Birmingham; following their return to Canada they had three children.



Florence died of a brain tumour aged 51 in 1947. Arthur married again, to Ada Benn, and died on 10th August 1982. He is buried, alongside almost all of his immediate family (including members who died both before and after him) at Riverview Cemetery in Wallaceburg, Chatham-Kent Municipality, Ontario, Canada

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Page 11] 37

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parish or Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecological Parish or District of		
Chorford						Taunton			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
46	Rpt Wood	1	John Lock	Head	Mar	63	Timekeeper	General Milford	
			Elizabeth do	Wife	do	57	do	General Milford	
			William do	Son	do	16	do	General Milford	
47	do	1	John Lock	Head	Mar	58	do	General Milford	
			Agnes do	Wife	do	50	do	General Milford	
			John do	Son	do	22	do	General Milford	
48	do	1	George Denning	Head	Mar	44	do	General Milford	
	Shop		Harriet do	Wife	do	44	do	General Milford	
			Charles do	Son	do	16	do	General Milford	
			Samuel do	Son	do	10	do	General Milford	
			Alfred do	Son	do	9	do	General Milford	
			Maude do	Son	do	2	do	General Milford	
49	Rpt Wood	1	Edmund Ford	Head	Mar	47	do	General Milford	
			Mary do	Wife	do	47	do	General Milford	
			Elizabeth do	Son	do	16	do	General Milford	
50	do	1	Agnes Clayton	Head	do	52	do	General Milford	
			John do	Son	do	14	do	General Milford	
			Frederick do	Son	do	10	do	General Milford	
51	do	1	Thomas Ford	Head	Mar	57	do	General Milford	
			Mary do	Wife	do	57	do	General Milford	
			John do	Son	do	24	do	General Milford	
Total of Houses...		6	Total of Males and Females...		11	11			

Note.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng- Sheet C.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: RG 11/2364

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CM SCALE	1	2	3	4	5	6
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Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAMES AND SURNAMES	RELATIONSHIP to head of family	AGE last birthday and SEX	PARTICIPANTS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION of Persons aged 16 years and upwards.	BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.
<p>Of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who—</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight; or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>For order of return, please see Examples on back of Schedule.</p>							
L	A	S	M	O	D	N	I
William Russell	Head	28	Married	Canner	100	England	Down, Weakly.
Tracy Elizabeth Russell	Wife	27	Married	2	Do	Do	Down, Lymphatic
Antha William Downing	Servant	15	Single	Boys boy on Farm	Do	Do	downward, Head 150

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Verify that—	True	Falsely
(A) All those upon the Schedule are entered in the proper order and class.		
(B) Every person's name and condition, Occupancy &c., and relationship to the head of the family, are correctly stated.		
(C) After tracing the necessary pedigree, I have completed all columns on the Schedule excepting those for the disability and death year, if persons under 16 years of age are present in the household.		

Initials of Enumerator

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature William Russell

Printed Address Windsor Farm, Lydford, Herefordshire

Age 18

With below the number of Persons in the Household, (Males, Females, or Apprentices), Count the following as persons, but do not count as persons, children under 5 years of age, infirm persons, soldiers, sailors, labour, clerks, labourers, but workmen, etc.

Age 18

CENSUS

OF

ENGLAND AND WALES,

1911.



SCHEDULE.

Prepared pursuant to the Census (Great Britain) Act, 1910.

This space to be filled up by the Enumerator.

Number of Registration District.....

Number of Registration Sub-District.....

Number of Enumeration District.....

Name of Head
of Family or
Separate Occupier. }

Mr Denning

Postal Address.....

Westhays.

*Buckland St Mary
church*

NOTICE.

This Schedule must be filled up and signed by, or on behalf of, the Head of the Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of the dwelling (house, tenement or apartment).

Page 40

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Buckland St Mary in the County of Somerset in the year One thousand eight hundred and four

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1904 May, 5 th No. 313	Cecil Hugh	William & Amanda	Heitch	Combe St Nicholas	Labourer	Ab. 26 Dorothy P.
1904 June 12 th No. 314	Stanley Norman	Sarah Edwin James & Sarah	Denning	Buckland St Mary	Labourer	E. P. Langford ✓
1904 June 19 th No. 315	Abraham	Frank & Lucy	Churchill	Buckland St Mary	Road Contractor	E. P. Langford ✓
1904 June 26 th No. 316	Harold Mark & Annie	Walter	Combe & Richards	Corsham	Carpenter	E. P. Langford ✓
1904 July 31 st No. 317	Robert Frank & Lucy	Churchill	Buckland St Mary	Road Contractor	E. P. Langford ✓	
1904 August 8 th No. 318	Cyril William & Annie	Gard	Buckland St Mary	Road Contractor	E. P. Langford ✓	
1904 Sept 18 th No. 319	Dorothy Millicent & Annie	John Reginald & Mary	Pym	Buckland St Mary	Farmer	E. P. Langford ✓
1905 Jan. 8 th No. 320	Doris Adelaide	John & Adelaide	Clode	Buckland St Mary	Mason	J. H. M.

Page 41

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Buckland St Mary in the County of Somerset in the year One thousand eight hundred and five

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1905 Jan 28 th No. 321	Elsie daughter of	Jane	Burford	Buckland St Mary	Servant	J. H. M. M.
1905 Feb 12 th No. 322	Erin May Victoria	Richard & Sarah Jane	Hooper	Buckland St Mary	Labourer	Arthur P. Lane ✓
1905 Feb 26 th No. 323	Grace Alice	Mark & Alice	Churchill	Buckland St Mary	Carpenter	Arthur P. Lane ✓
1905 March 5 th No. 324	Daisy Jane	William & Emily	Fowler	Buckland St Mary	Labourer	Arthur P. Lane ✓
1905 April 16 th No. 325	John	John & Mary Maria	Wyatt	Buckland St Mary	Farmer	Arthur P. Lane ✓
1905 April 16 th No. 326	Rhoda Mary	William & Alice	Sparks	Buckland St Mary	Farmer	Arthur P. Lane ✓
1905 July 16 th No. 327	Reginald Arthur Owen	William & Amanda	Keitch	Combe St Nicholas	Labourer	Arthur P. Lane ✓
1905 Aug 15 th No. 328	Walter Frederick	William Henry & Ellen	Lang	Buckland St Mary	Cookman	Arthur P. Lane ✓

8352

88th BATTALION VICTORIA FUSILIERS C.E.F.
ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. **181075**

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio **ORIGINAL****QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**

(ANSWERS).

1. What is your surname?..... *Denning*
- 1a. What are your Christian names?..... *Arthur*
- 1b. What is your present address?..... *P.O. Victoria B.C.*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... *Buckland, St Mary Somerset Eng*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... *Edwin Denning*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... *No 24, Buckland, St Mary Somerset Eng*
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?..... *father*
5. What is the date of your birth?..... *16/6/1895*
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... *Farmer*
7. Are you married?..... *no*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?..... *yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... *no*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... *no*
If so, state particulars of former service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... *yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the }
 CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }..... *yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Arthur Denning*, 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 by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the **Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force**, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date... *11/4*..... 191*6* *Arthur Denning*..... (Signature of Recruit)
W. J. J. J...... (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Arthur Denning*, 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 as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date... *11/4*..... 191*6* *Arthur Denning*..... (Signature of Recruit)
W. J. J. J...... (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned 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.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at... *Victoria B.C.*... this... *11th*... day of... *February*... 191*6*

H. J. Cullen..... (Signature of Justice)
Lieut.-Col Commanding

Instructions to person solemnizing marriage:

IMPORTANT

*The Marriage Act provides that ANY PERSON NOT REGISTERED WITH and certified by the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY as therein provided, or ANY PERSON so registered and certified but DISQUALIFIED by change of residence or for any other reason, who solemnizes any marriage, SHALL INCUR A PENALTY of \$500, and shall also be liable to imprisonment. Forms of application for registration are furnished on request by the Provincial Secretary.

If this license is incomplete by the omission to fill in any blank space, or if any alteration is made which is not authorized by the issuer, do not solemnize any marriage hereunder until such omission or lack of authentication has been corrected in the proper manner by the issuer.

Any person who solemnizes a marriage earlier than the THIRD day AFTER the day of the date of this license, EXCEPT as in The Marriage Act provided, shall be GUILTY of an offence and shall incur a penalty of not more than \$100.

No marriage shall be solemnized under the authority of any license unless within THREE MONTHS after the date thereof.

AFTER solemnizing the marriage, fill in every blank space below and forward License POSTWORTH to Registrar-General, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

013850

Certificate of Marriage

I hereby certify that I solemnized the Marriage of:—

Bridegroom Joseph Benoit and
Bride Edith Denning
in the presence of

Witness Wilfred Balanger and
Address Wallaceburg
Witness Beatrice Hyman
Address Wallaceburg

in the town of Wallaceburg in the
County of Kent PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
on the sixteenth day of May 1936

Name of Bridegroom's Father Leo Benoit
Maiden Name of Bridegroom's Mother Jennie Tremblay
Name of Bride's Father Colburn Denning
Maiden Name of Bride's Mother Florence Prince

NUMBER OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF REGISTRATION OF PERSON SOLEMNIZING THE MARRIAGE 10039 See * above.

Rev. H. Ben Hyman
(Signature of person solemnizing marriage)

Address Wallaceburg
Denomination P. C. Priest

If marriage is solemnized earlier than the third day following the date of this license, state nature and date of the Departmental authorization therefor.

For statistical purposes, the issuer or the dispenser shall record the following information:—

Birthplace of Bridegroom's Father? Wallaceburg

Birthplace of Bride's Father? England

Can Bridegroom read? Yes Write? Yes Can Bride read? Yes Write? Yes

Affidavit required by Section 22 of The Marriage Act before License is Granted.

DO NOT use abbreviations or figures in affidavit or jurat printed below.

(1) If the affidavit is made by both parties, insert here the name, address and occupation of the other party. Where both the parties to the intended marriage attend before the issuer and each of them makes the affidavit required in sub-section 2, the issuer may in his discretion dispense with the jurat required by sub-section 5.

*If either of the parties is under the age of 18 years, the consent in writing, verified by affidavit, of the person whose consent is required, must be filed with the issuer for transmission to the Registrar-General. (The Marriage Act, Sections 17 and 21).

***If neither of the parties has had his or her bona fide usual place of abode in Ontario for 15 days immediately preceding the issuance of this license and the person to marry has not been duly advertised, a Permit to Issue a License must be obtained from the Provincial Secretary. A fee of \$5.00 is charged for such Permit. "Bona fide usual place of abode" is interpreted to mean not residence after marriage but residence at the time of and immediately preceding such marriage.

I, Edith Denning of the Township of Chatham in the County of Kent, Ontario, and
I, Joseph Benoit of the Township of Chatham in the County of Kent, Ontario, do hereby make oath and say as follows:

That, for the space of fifteen days***immediately preceding the issuance of this license, Edith Denning and Joseph Benoit have had our usual place of abode within the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO; (was his, her or our)

That I believe there is no affinity, consanguinity, prior marriage or other lawful cause or legal impediment to bar or hinder the solemnization of the marriage; and

That the contents set forth hereinafter are to the best of our knowledge, information and belief, true in every particular: (say or say)

Names in full	<u>Joseph Benoit</u>	<u>Edith Denning</u>
Occupation	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Domestic</u>
Age	<u>Twenty one</u>	<u>Eighteen</u>
Condition in life	Bachelor, Widow or Divorcee (insert in writing) <u>Bachelor</u>	Spinster, Widow or Divorcee (insert in writing) <u>Spinster</u>
Religious Denomination	<u>Roman Catholic</u>	<u>United Church</u>
Residence when Married	<u>Chatham Ont.</u>	<u>Chatham Ont.</u>
Place of Birth	<u>Wallaceburg, Ont.</u>	<u>Wallaceburg, Ont.</u>
Intended Place of Marriage	<u>City of Windsor</u>	<u>City of Windsor</u>

Sworn before me at the town of Windsor in the County of Essex this Eleventh day of May 1936.

Edith Denning
(Signature of Dispenser)
Joseph Benoit
(Signature of Issuer)

Issuer of Marriage Licenses at Wallaceburg, Ont.





Form 6

**PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
VITAL STATISTICS ACT
REGISTRATION OF DEATH**

Registration Number
026296
For use of Registrar General only.

1. PLACE OF DEATH
City, Town or Village of Chatham Street General Hospital 273
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the name instead of street and number)

Township of _____ County or District of Kent

2. LENGTH OF STAY In Municipality where death occurred _____ In Province 28 years In Canada (if immigrant) 28 years
(in years, months and days) 10 days

3. PRINT FULL NAME OF DECEASED. DENNING FLORENCE MAY
(Surname or last name) (Given or Christian names)

4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
City, Town or Village of Wallaceburg Street 8 Brisbane 279
Township of _____ County of Kent Province of Ontario

5. SEX Female **6. CITIZENSHIP** (See marginal note) Canadian **7. RACIAL ORIGIN** (See marginal note) English **8. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced** (Write the word) Married **9. BIRTHPLACE** (Province or Country) Somersetshire, England

10. Date of Birth October 30th 1895 **11. AGE** 51 9 8 hrs. or min.
(Month by name) (Day) (Year)

12. (a) Trade, profession or kind of work as spinner, grader, clerk, etc. Housewife
(b) Kind of industry or business, as paper mill, lumber, bank, etc. Own Housekeeping

13. Date deceased last worked at this occupation. June 30/47 **14. Total years spent in this occupation.** lifetime

15. If married, widowed or divorced give name of husband or maiden name of wife of deceased Arthur Denning

16. Name of father. PRINCE (Surname or last name) Not known (Given or Christian names)

17. Maiden name of mother. Not known (Surname or last name) Not known (Given or Christian names)

18. Birthplace: Father Wales (Britain) (Province or Country) Mother England (Province or Country)

19. I certify the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Given under my hand at Wallaceburg this 7 day of August 1947
Signature of informant Arthur W. Denning Relationship to deceased Husband
Address Wallaceburg, Ont.

20. Burial, Cremation or Removal. Burial Date August 9 1947
Place of Burial Wallaceburg Ontario (Municipality) Reveries (Day) (Year)
Cemetery _____

Burial Permit was issued by Dr. H. H. H. H. Address Wallaceburg, Ont.

21. Funeral Director: Name Death Son Address Wallaceburg

22. Marginal notations (Once use only)
Tumour was a glioma. 30 24/10/47.
SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION D. 8. 12/11/47. FURTHER INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

23. DATE OF DEATH Aug 7 1947
(Month by name) (Day) (Year)

24. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from Sept 1941
to Aug. 7. 1947 and last saw him alive on Aug 6 1947

CAUSE OF DEATH

Immediate cause 054-1
Give disease, injury or complication which caused death, nor the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asphyxia, asbestosis, etc.

Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to immediate cause (stated in order proceeding backwards from immediate cause).
(a) Cerebral Compression
(b) Frontal Lobe Brain Tumour
(c) _____

Other morbid conditions (if important) contributing to death but not causally related to immediate cause. _____

25. If a woman, was the death associated with pregnancy? _____ Duration _____ weeks. Was there a delivery? _____

26. Was there a surgical operation? No Date of operation Dec 10/46 1946
State findings Extensive Brain Tumour Was there an autopsy? No

27. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:—
Accident, suicide or homicide? _____ (State which) _____ Date of injury _____ 1947
Manner of injury _____ (How sustained) _____
Nature of injury _____
Specify whether injury occurred in INDUSTRY, in HOME, or in PUBLIC PLACE _____

Signed by R. W. H. H. Designation Med. M.D., Coroner, etc. _____
Address Wallaceburg Date Aug 8 1947

Division Registrar's Record No. _____
Date of Registration Aug 12th 1947 Oliver Wright
(For use of Division Registrar only) (Signature of Division Registrar)

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.

CITIZENSHIP (NATIONALITY) is defined in terms of the country to which the person owes allegiance. The term "Canadian" should be used as descriptive of a person who was born in Canada or who has rights of Citizenship in Canada, unless he or she has subsequently become the citizen of another country.

RACIAL ORIGIN is defined in terms of the people or race to which the person—traced through the father—belongs, whether English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. The terms "Canadian" or "American" should not be used for RACIAL ORIGIN, as they express CITIZENSHIP (NATIONALITY).

In case of stillbirth consult reverse side before making out certificate.

The original research on Arthur Denning carried out by Mike Canham – includes some duplication.

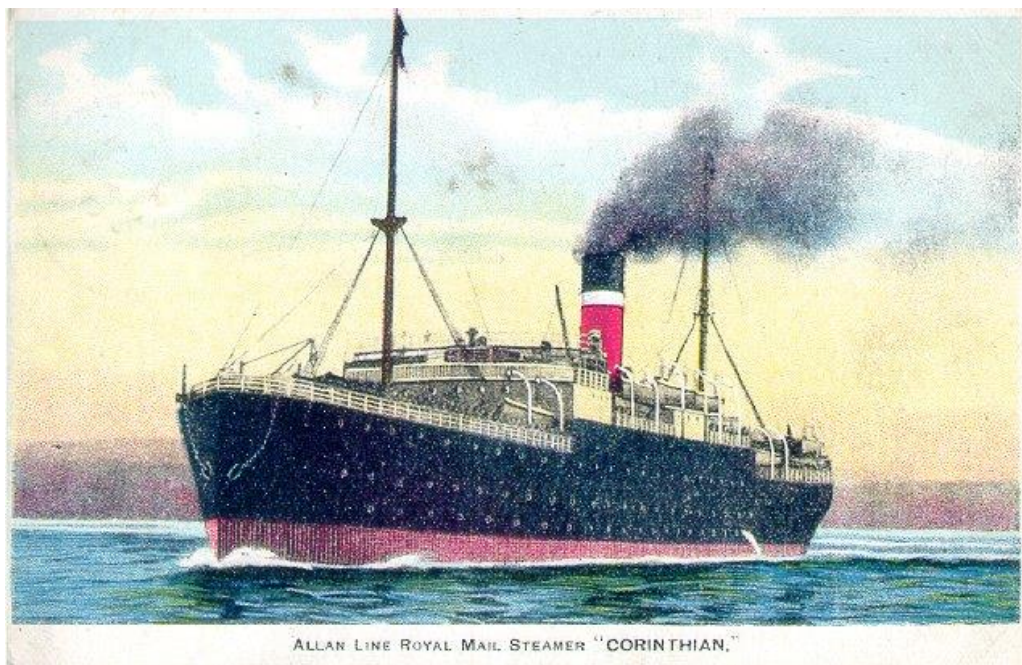
ARTHUR WILLIAM DENNING

Arthur was born on 16th June 1895 in Buckland St Mary: and baptised at St Mary's Church on 11th August that year.

His father was Edwin (sometimes Edward) James Denning: his mother Sarah. One brother, Cecil Robert John, is also listed in this book - see his entry for fuller family details.

Gaps / school/ work - prior to him sailing to Canada in 1913

On 9th May 1913 Arthur sailed on the ss Corinthian from Plymouth to Quebec in Canada. We don't know specifically why, but he was listed as a farm labourer and it is likely he was seeking work and possibly permanent emigration.



The ship was built in 1900 (launched on 19th March that year) by Workman, Clark & Co Ltd of Belfast, for the Allan Line of Liverpool. Originally having accommodation for 50-1st, 150-2nd and 400-3rd class passengers; she was rebuilt in 1908 and reconfigured to carry 280-2nd

and 900-3rd class passengers. She was used just once - in 1914 - as a Canadian Expeditionary Force troopship. One of the soldiers who went to war on her that day was future Canadian Prime Minister Lester B Pearson. On 10th December 1918 - just ten days after the war ended - the Corinthian was en-route from St. John, New Brunswick. to the UK loaded with supplies (mostly ham, bacon, beef and flour to alleviate post-war shortages in the UK) when in thick fog she struck the Northwest Ledge of Brier Island, three miles north-west of Westport in the Bay of Fundy, and was grounded and wrecked. Whilst there was no loss of life, the Captain and the Chief Officer were found guilty of 'indifferent seamanship'..

As a result of indifferent seamanship, which brought about the loss of their vessel, the certificates of the captain and the chief officer of the C.P.R. steamer Corinthian have been suspended for three and six months, respectively.

The Times Monday 23rd December 1918

Maybe he continued to work as a labourer when he first arrived, but three years later when he enlisted in the CEF (see below) he described himself as a farmer.

On 11th January 1916 Arthur enlisted 88th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (the Victoria Fusiliers). He was 5' 5" tall, with blue eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion. His stated his religion was CoE, and he was still single.

88th BATTALION VICTORIA FUSILIERS C.E.F.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

DUPLICATE

No. 181025

Folio.

075

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

1. What is your surname? *Denning*
- 1a. What are your Christian names? *Arthur*
- 1b. What is your present address? *P.O. Victoria B.C.*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Brackland St. Mary Somerset Engl*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Edwin Denning*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *The Lodge Brackland St. Mary Somerset Engl*
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Father*
5. What is the date of your birth? *16/6/1895*
6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Farmer*
7. Are you married? *No*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *Yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?
If so, state particulars of former service. *Yes*
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Arthur Denning*, 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 by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Arthur Denning (Signature of Recruit)

Date *11/2/1916*

E. H. Hasford (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Arthur Denning*, 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 as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Arthur Denning (Signature of Recruit)

Date *11/2/1916*

E. H. Hasford (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned 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.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath

before me, at *Victoria B.C.* this *11th* day of *February* 1916

K. A. Cullin (Signature of Justice)

W.M.

Description of Arthur Denning on Enlistment.

Apparent Age. 21 years months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Height. 5 ft. 5 ins.

Chest measurement: { Girth when fully expanded. 37 ins.
Range of expansion. 2 1/2 ins.

Complexion. Fresh

Eyes. Blue

Hair. Brown

Religious denominations

Church of England. Yes

Presbyterian.

Methodist.

Baptist or Congregationalist.

Roman Catholic.

Jewish.

Other Denominations.
(Denomination to be stated)

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him* fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date. 11/27 1914.

Place. Edmonton BC

Lt. Col. C. A. M. C. M. C.
Capt. C. A. M. C. M. C.
Medical Officer.

* Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Arthur Denning having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

H. R. Cullin (Signature of Officer)

Lieut.-Col. Commanding

88th Battalion Victoria Fusiliers C.E.F.

Date. 11/27 1914.

The Battalion received marching orders on 20th May 1916 which were received with cheers of enthusiasm from officers and men. Three days later the first units of the Battalion sailed to the UK aboard the SS *Princess Charlotte*. Others followed on the White Star Liner *Olympic* a week later.



(below) 88th Battalion boarding SS *Princess Charlotte*
in Victoria Harbour, British Columbia

Once in England, and based initially in Westenhanger in Kent, the Battalion was absorbed into the 30th Reserve Battalion on 18th July 1916. and became, in practice, a recruiting organisation - providing reinforcements for front line regiments and support/service battalions.

We have no details of Arthur's war-time service but a diary entry from Harold Hartley Littler (who travelled in the second transport on 30th May) details his journey, his time in England, and subsequent transfer to a Pioneer Battalion. By September Harold was working alongside and supporting the front-line troops, and remained in France and Belgium for the remainder of the war. It seems likely that Arthur's experience was similar.

Early in 1919, and back in the UK, Arthur married Florence May Prince (born 13th October 1895 in Kings Norton, near Birmingham) in Taunton.

Following their return to Canada they had four children.

Edith Helen (born 1920, died on 12th September 2008) : Edith married Benoit Boyce Edward (1921 to 1973).

Edna (born 10th April 1924, died on 5th October 2012): Edna married Van Landeghem



Donald Arthur (born 9th March 1932, died aged just 1 on 11th April 1933).

Florence (no date of birth, but died on 7th August 1947 aged 51).

Need details of the rest of his life in Canada.

Check what happened to Florence May. In XXX Arthur married again: his new wife was Ada Lizzie Benn (born 30th March 1906, died in 1996).

Arthur pre-deceased Ada, dying on 10th August 1982. He is buried, alongside almost all of his immediate family (including members who died both before and after him) at Riverview Cemetery in Wallaceburg, Chatham-Kent Municipality, Ontario, Canada



(Source: Libraries & Archives Canada, Government of Canada)

Researched and written by Mike Canham