

CECIL ROBERT JOHN DENNING , Private 219307, 80th Btn Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Cecil was born in Buckland St Mary on 12th February 1897, and baptised there on 25th April that year. His parents were Edwin (a general labourer) and Sarah Denning; he was one of nine children - four girls and five boys. In 1901 the family were living at Mallackham (there are a variety of spellings in different documents) in Buckland St Mary. This property, on the footpath between Buckland St Mary and Bishopswood, is still there, remote in the woods.

By 1911 the family had moved to The Lodge, still in Buckland St Mary. Cecil, aged 14, was one of four sons still at home and was working as a general farm labourer. The house is still in existence as a terrace of three houses on the road between Buckland St Mary and Bishopswood.



On 13th March 1914 Cecil travelled, probably as an emigrant and probably influenced by his older brother Arthur, to Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada. He sailed on the *SS Alsatian*, owned by the Allan Line Steamship Co.; she was a new steamship converted later that year – the first year of the war – to an armed merchant cruiser.

We have no detail about what Cecil did in Canada in that year, but when he signed up for the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in 1915 he still described himself as a farmer. He enlisted on 2nd October 1915, in Brookville, Ontario, as a Private in the 80th Battalion of the CEF. He was 5' 7½" tall; with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He was single, C of E and his next of kin remained his father in Buckland St Mary.

He gave his date of birth as 12th February 1896 – making him appear one year older than he actually was. It may be that he needed to be a year older in order to be sent abroad, and to fight – plenty of other young men did the same thing!

The 80th was an infantry battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, founded on 10th July 1915; they embarked for Great Britain on 20th May 1916. It provided reinforcements to the Canadian Corps in the field. On 30 September 1916 its personnel were absorbed by units of the 4th Canadian Division. The battalion was subsequently disbanded on 17 July 1917.

We haven't found any details of Cecil's front-line service, but we know he was listed as wounded on 30th November 1916. Allowing for a time delay in reporting, it is likely that the incident occurred at the Battle of the Ancre (13–18 November 1916) - the final large British attack of the Battle of the Somme, when we know Canadian units were present.

Back in England after the war (we have no details of why he didn't return to farming in Canada) he married Linda Miller at St Luke's Church, Wimbledon Park in Surrey on 22nd October 1921. Her father was a retired police constable. In those early years he was working on the GW Railway as labourer and cleaner.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the couple lived in and around Wandsworth in South London; they had two children, Norman born in 1926 and Betty in 1931.

In the 1939 Register they were recorded as living at 2 Clonmore Street, Wandsworth - Cecil was a general labourer with the LPTB – the London Passenger Transport Board, Linda a housewife; the children are not with them. Could they possibly have been evacuated? Or sent to Canada?

When he died on 27th February 1976 he was back in the West Country, living at Ottery St Mary.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

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, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday)	SEX		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.
			Male	Female		Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.			
1. <i>Edwin Denning</i>	Head	55	M	Married	28	11	Farmer-Labourer	140	Worcester	150
2. <i>Janet Denning</i>	Wife	50	F	Married	28	11				
3. <i>Reed Denning</i>	Son	14	M					140		
4. <i>Harriet Denning</i>	Son	11	M					390		
5. <i>Ernest Denning</i>	Son	9	M							
6. <i>Norman Denning</i>	Son	6	M							

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as submitted to me by the 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: *E. Denning*

Postal Address: *Dodge, Buckland St. Mary, Worcs.*

No.	Name	Occupation	Rate	Station	Date 1919	No.	Name	Occupation	Rate	Station	Date 1920
96981	Dale	G.A. Greaser	2/	Dredcot	24 Nov	97562	Dodge	V.L. Cleaner	1/	Westbury	19 Jan
96982	Dyke	G.E. Cleaner	6/	Worcester		976	Douglas	G.H.	6/	Oxford	26 "
96987	Dodd	P. C. Cleaner	3/8	B-head		652	Darlington	A	6/	Berkenhead	
96988	Dent	W.H. Greaser	2/2	Kogenstone		681	Daffer	F.D. 3rd Cleaner	3/6	Dredcot	
96989	Davis	C.H. Cleaner	1/	Hamelly	1 Dec	692	Dagnall	W.H. Cleaner	6/	Chester	
96990	Davidge	A.J. Wagon Repairer	3/6	Haywood		720	Davis	W.H.		Hamelly	27 "
96991	Dove	W.H. Cleaner	6/	Longford Rd 2		765	Doggett	H.	1/	Newport Dredcot	25 "
96992	Davis	G.H.	3/	London	3 "	780	Drice	M.C.		Abberdale	2 Feb
96993	Delderfield	G.	5/	Epsley		822	Davies	L.		Brookway	
96994	Davis	W.G. C. Cleaner	1/10	Carmarthen	8 "	869	Dawling	F.R.	6/	Dredcot	
96995	Dudley	A.A. Cleaner	6/	Stafford Rd		860	Davis	F.		Chester	
96996	DeLancey	F.R. Letter	7/2	B-head	10 "	861	Davis	G.H.	1/	Carmarthen	
96997	Davis	F.H. Cleaner	6/	Goodwick	15 "	873	Davis	W.	6/	Hamelly	
96998	Duffin	F.		Stafford Rd	14 "	874	Dennicks	H.	5/	Worcester	
96999	Davis	W.H. C. Cleaner	3/4	Heath	22 "	875	Davis	D.P.	6/	Heath	
97000	Davis	W.D. Telegrapher	2/8	W. Verulbs		931	Derbyshire	C.F.		Worcester	9 "
97001	Dawler	G.E. 3rd Cleaner	3/9	Dev. St. Jno	24 "	98009	Downs	H.	5/	Dev. St. Jno	10 "
97002	Davis	F.H. Telegrapher	2/8	W. Verulbs	29 "	042	Dance	W.H. Coppermiths	1/5	Worcester	15 "
97003	"	F.G. C. Cleaner	3/6	London		072	Dodd	C. Cleaner	6/	Hunter Abbot	
97004	Douglas	F.H. Rivet Boy	1/5	Shrewsbury		093	Duggan	D.		Bardiff	
97005	Davis	F. Boat Engineer	3/10	Shrewsbury		099	Dunstan	G.H.		Penance	
97006	Downing	G.H. Cleaner	6/	Shrewsbury	1920	141	Dunmette	L.H.	5/	Casler	23 "
97007	Davis	C.H.	6/	Chester	6 "	234	Dyball	F.H. Letter	6/10	Dansgar	24 "
97008	Dorvalski	B.	6/	Dansgar		322	Dart	H.F. Cleaner	7/4 1/2	Port Talbot	1st Mar
97009	Davis	F.H. Shed labor	4/	Dansgar		323	Davies	G.H.	3/4 3/6	Goodwin	
97010	Davis	C.H. Cleaner	5/	Dansgar	8 "	327	Devaney	J.H.	3/4 3/6	Shymouth	
97011	Davis	F.H. Greaser	2/8	C.B. Bonmond	12 "	329	Dupont	E.J. Coalman	4/6 3/6	Port Talbot	
97012	Davenny	C.H. Cleaner	1/	Dansgar		350	Davies	F.	3/4 3/6	Hamelly	27 "
97013	Dewth	C.H. Cleaner	1/	Oxford		359	Dorran	E.H.	7/4 3/6	Lough	30 "
97014	Dean	R.G. Cleaner	5/	Leamington		367	Dandey	A.H.	7/4 3/6	Epsley	8 "
97015	Dennett	F.				370	Lay	F.T. Shipman	9/4 3/6	Shymouth	

No.	Name	Occupation	Rate	Station	Date 1920
701	Davies	H.E. King Rep'd boat	4/0 1/2	North Sh. J.	Aug 30
783	Davies	North Wharfedale	4/0 1/2	Paddan.	6 Sept
811	Daniels	L. Litter	9/0 1/2	O.O. Comm.	"
822	Davison	L.L. Cleaner	4/0 1/2	"	13 "
823	Dance	Ad. Office boy	4/0 1/2	Horchester	"
840	Dapple	G.B. Litter	4/0 1/2	Sydney	14 "
860	Dudridge	G.R. Litter Lab	4/0 1/2	Cardiff	20 "
861	De-la-Mare	H.B. Cleaner	4/0 1/2	Neath	"
916	Duncalf	J.H. Greaser	4/0 1/2	Frome	29 "
920	Darke	W.D. Greaser	4/0 1/2	Dev. Dun. J.	11 Oct
960	Darson	J.H.D.	4/0 1/2	Cardiff	"
1010	Duckhouse	G.B. Litter Lab	4/0 1/2	"	10 "
1026a	Demming	G.R. J. Labourer	4/0 1/2	H. Doubls	18 "
1092	Davies	H.H. Cleaner	4/0 1/2	Llanelli Sh.	1 Nov
1119	Duffy	H.H.	4/0 1/2	London	8 "
1134	Davies	S.J.	4/0 1/2	C. Newport	9 "
1142	Davies	L.B. Tubecleaner	4/0 1/2	Merddar	11 "
1176	Davies	W.B. Cleaner	4/0 1/2	"	17 "
1183	Davies	J. Messenger	4/0 1/2	Port Talbot	20 "
1184	Davies	H.B. Bond Issuer	4/0 1/2	North Sh. J.	"
1247	Davies	J. Oil Refiller	4/0 1/2	Sheaf.	29 "
1262	Davies	H.B. Cleaner	4/0 1/2	Newport	6 Dec
1264	Davies	S.M.	4/0 1/2	Merddar	7 "
1275	Davies	J.B. Hagon Rep'd boat	4/0 1/2	Port Talbot	19 Jan
1334	Drinkwater	G.B. Carpenter	4/0 1/2	Whampton	3 Jan
1335	Dillon	H.B. Bond Issuer	4/0 1/2	Newmouth	"
1350	Davies	H.B. Shedman	4/0 1/2	Port Talbot	9 "
1352	Doherty	H.B. Labourer	4/0 1/2	O.O. Comm.	10 "
1359	Day	H.B. Cleaner	4/0 1/2	Merddar	11 "
1391	Donovan	H.H. App. f. m. v.	4/0 1/2	Newport	27 Jan

No.	Name	Occupation	Rate	Station	Date
1409	Barlinton	H. J. Pension App.	4/0 1/2	Wolverhampton	27 Feb.
1416	Davies	W. J. Engine Cleaner	4/0 1/2	Llanelli	5 April
1417	Dodd	W.R.B. Fitter	5/7 1/2	Bristol	26 "
1429	Doughty	P. Chawman	5/10	O.O. Comm.	26 July
1432	Dool	W. J. Ash Filler	3/5	"	9 Aug.
1435	Davies	J. S. Boiler Scraper	10/6	Chapman	6 Nov.
1438	Dowling	J. H. Fitter I.	10/6	Bristol	4 Dec.
1922					
1479	Dofato	J. P. Fitter Apprentice	4/0 1/2	Bristol	29 Jan.
1519	Davies	W. J. J. Labourer	3/4	Cardiff Dock	21 Feb.
1524	Davies	Z.B. J. Labourer 2.	4/6	"	26 "
1545	Davies	J. J. Fitter's Labr.	10/6	Bury	1 March
1546	Davies	J. J. Fitter	10/6	"	1 "
1547	Davies	S. S.	10/6	"	1 "
1557	Davies	J. H. Fitter's Labr.	10/6	"	2 "
1565	Dodds	A. H. Anglemith Stoker	10/6	"	5 "
1566	Dyke	S. H. Fitter's Labr.	10/6	"	5 "
1597	Dowry	L. R. In-Hammer Boy	4/6	Newton abbot	12 "
1604	Davies	B. A. Shedman	3/5	Reynney	17 "
1625	Davies	B. Litter Cleaner	3/2	Longmynd	26 "
1626	Duncombe	J. Labourer 2.	10/6	Cardiff Dock	26 "
1632	Dyke	G. A. Shop Labr. 2.	10/6	Oswestry	2 April
1644	Davies	J. Hyd. Repairer	10/6	Port Talbot Dock	6 "
1670	Davies	W. H. Fitter	10/6	Bury Dock	9 "
1707	Drayton	J. Cleaner	4/0 1/2	Newport Sh. St.	27 "
1711	Dutton	J. A. Boiler Scraper	10/6	Newport Dock	30 "
1732	Dwy	W. H. D. Boiler-maker	10/6	Cardiff Sh. R. R.	8 May
1750	Dyke	S. S. Store Issuer	10/6	Cardiff B.R.	16 "
1757	Davies	A. S. Quase	3/4	Llanelli	21 "
1760	Davies	A. J. Cleaner's App.	3/6	Penk	22 "

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Buckland Henry in the
County of Salisbury in the year One thousand
eight hundred and ninety six

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names. Christian. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1896 April 4	1896 June 21 No. 201	William George son of Charles Marshall Hicks	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1896 April 4	1896 June 27 No. 202	Edith Charlotte daughter of Charles Elizabeth North	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1896 May 22	1896 July 5 No. 203	Isabel Anna daughter of William Goodland and Mary Quirk	Buckland Henry	Farmer	William Lance
1896 June 28	1896 July 26 No. 204	Sarah Bayer daughter of Alfred Caroline Shire	Buckland Henry	Foreman Buckland	William Lance
1896 June 28	1896 July 26 No. 205	Frank Henry son of Frank Elizabeth Pacey	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1896 Sept 3	1896 Sept 20 No. 206	Daisy Mary Emma daughter of William Henry and Mary Hooper	Buckland Henry	Dairy Factory Manager	William Lance
1896 Sept 12	1896 Nov 29 No. 207	Eli and son of Elizabeth Eoery	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1896 Dec 20	1897 Jan 24 No. 208	Rose Laura daughter of William and Emily Fowler	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance

(1896) London West & Son, Paper Lane.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Buckland Henry in the
County of Salisbury in the year One thousand
eight hundred and ninety seven

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names. Christian. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1897 Jan 12	1897 Feb 2 No. 209	Harold Francis son of George and Alice Fox	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1897 Jan 19	1897 Feb 28 No. 210	Gladys Margaret daughter of James Anna Henry	Buckland Henry	Butcher	William Lance
1897 Jan 19	1897 April 20 No. 211	Clinton Elizabeth daughter of Edward and Frances Davenport	Buckland Henry	Clerk in Navy Office Smith's Clerk	William Lance
1897 Jan 12	1897 April 25 No. 212	Leila Robert son of Leila and Sarah Denning	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1897 March 31	1897 May 16 No. 213	Lucy William son of William and Lucy Webster	Buckland Henry	Farmer	William Lance
1897 May 11	1897 June 6 No. 214	Kate Isaac daughter of Isaac and Edith Webster	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1897 May 14	1897 June 14 No. 215	Bessie William daughter of William and Sarah Boswell	Buckland Henry	Laborer	William Lance
1897 May 18	1897 June 29 No. 216	James Isaac son of James and Alice Mellip	Buckland Henry	Farmer	William Lance

E.D. Letter Code *AXXF*Borough, U.D. or R.D. *Wandsworth*Registration District
and Sub-district*34-5*

ADDRESS	SCHEDULE		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES	O. V. S. P. or L.	M. or F.	BIRTH		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5. Elanham St.	117	5	Fountain Margaret M.	-	F	18.11	15	19	Unpaid dom. duties
"	117	6	Fye Philip	-	M	27.10	83	19	Home office. Coal merchant
3. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	118	1	Spaced Elsie M.	-	F	9.10	00	5	Unpaid dom. duties
"	118	2	BRASNETT Spaced Florence M.	-	F	8.10	17	5	Mother's help (paid)
"	118	3	Spaced Frank	-	F	20.10	73	5	Unpaid dom. duties
1. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	119	1	Hughes Harold S.	-	M	19.10	07	19	Industrial & research chemist
"	119	2	" Phyllis	-	F	27.10	07	19	Unpaid dom. duties
2. Glanville St.	120	1	Brown Edwin M.	-	M	22.10	00	19	Builder labourer Heavy work
"	120	2	" Mary	-	F	9.10	12	19	Unpaid dom. duties
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	121	1	Pennington R. K.	-	M	12.10	97	19	General labourer L.P.T.B.
"	121	2	" Linda	-	F	13.10	93	19	Unpaid dom. duties
4. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	122	1	Shepherd Robert	-	M	15.10	00	19	Factory production clerk
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	122	2	Edgworth M.M.	-	M	17.10	07	19	Factory store keeper
6. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	123	1	Garner Edwin G.	-	M	14.10	93	19	Postman S. 723
"	123	2	" Rose A.	-	F	14.10	99	19	Unpaid dom. duties

This record is officially closed.

V. 6. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	124	-							
8. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	125	1	Perrett Grace L.	-	F	14.10	06	19	Dairy asst.

This record is officially closed.

V. 8. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	126	-							
10. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	127	1	Smith Ernest J.	-	M	23.10	09	19	Electrical Engr. L.P.T.B.
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	127	2	" Kathleen M.	-	F	8.10	12	19	Unpaid dom. duties
10. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	128	1	Pennington Miller G.	-	F	12.10	97	19	Daily help.

This record is officially closed.

12. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	129	1	Webb Albert W.	-	M	21.10	87	19	L.P.T.B. Shopkeeper. Bus driver
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	129	2	" Kate	-	F	26.10	00	19	Unpaid dom. duties
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	129	3	" Peter J.	-	M	8.10	82	5	Post. stockkeeper metal work
12. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	130	1	Edgworth M.M.	-	F	17.10	07	19	Factory hand. golf club player

This record is officially closed.

14. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	131	1	Stockdale Robert G.	-	M	5.10	92	19	Railway cushion.
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	131	2	" Lillian M.	-	F	7.10	94	19	Unpaid dom. duties

This record is officially closed.

16. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	132	1	Ritterman Minnie	-	F	1.10	84	5	General domestic
16. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	133	1	Shoebold Esther E.	-	F	1.10	80	19	Unpaid dom. duties
16. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	134	1	Shoebold Edward G.	-	M	22.10	06	19	Stadium ticket representative
16. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	134	2	Shoebold George G.	-	M	1.10	12	5	Butcher
18. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	135	1	Spice George H.	-	M	3.10	78	19	Truck driver. met. police
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	135	2	" Sarah	-	F	10.10	84	19	Unpaid dom. duties
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	135	3	" George R. G.	-	M	1.10	06	19	Truck driver. met. police
18. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	136	1	Guerr. Edith L.	-	F	2.10	75	5	Unpaid dom. duties
20. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	137	1	Edwards William L.	-	M	2.10	77	19	Builder foreman
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	137	2	" Hannah E.	-	F	10.10	73	19	Unpaid dom. duties
20. " <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	138	1	Bunnah George G.	-	M	13.10	92	19	Truck & delivery. Bus lands. L.P.T.B.
" <i>12-13 30 RGA. M.</i>	138	2	Bunnah Edna K.	-	F	2.10	89	19	Unpaid dom. duties

See INSTRUCTIONS.

C186

Personnel Royal Navy 2665

Factory H.P. London.

Special Constabulary full

Civilian. met. police George S.

Civilian. met. police George S.

Researched and written by Mike Canham

CECIL ROBERT JOHN DENNING (IN SOME RECORDS - CEAL)

Cecil was born in Buckland St Mary on 12th February 1897, and baptised in St Mary's Church on 25th April/24th May that year.

His father was Edwin (in a couple of documents, Edward) James Denning (a general labourer, born in Yarcombe, Devon in 1858): his mother Sarah (*nee*, born in Broadway, Somerset in 1862). They had married in XXX; and had a total of nine children - four girls and five boys (Arthur William and Fred also appear in this book)

In 1901 the family lived at Mallackham (there are a variety of spellings in different documents!)), in Buckland St Mary. This property, on the footpath between Buckland St Mary and Bishopswood, is still in existence but has been neglected and unoccupied for some years now.

By 1911 the family had moved to The Lodge, still in Buckland St Mary. Cecil, aged 14, was one of four sons still at home and was working as a general farm labourer. The house is still in existence as a terrace of three houses on the road between Buckland St Mary and Bishopswood.

On 13th March 1914 Cecil travelled (*Why, was this emigration*) to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on the SS Alsation owned by the Allan Line Steamship Co



The ship was built in Glasgow by William Beardmore & Sons. She was launched in March 1913, and made her maiden voyage on 17th January 1914 from Liverpool to St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. Cecil, therefore, travelled on what must have been her second or third transatlantic crossing. Soon after, in August 1914, she was converted to an armed merchant cruiser and served throughout the war as HMS Alsation as part of the 10th Cruiser Squadron - patrolling between Scotland, the Faroe Islands, and Iceland; and escorting North Atlantic convoys. In December 1918 she returned to civilian use, and during along overhaul was renamed ss Empress of France. She was scrapped in 1934.

We know little about what Cecil did in Canada - although when he signed up for the CEF in 1915 he described himself as a farmer.

On 2nd October 1915 Cecil enlisted, in Brookville Ontario, as a Private in the 80th Battalion of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force (Service No: 219307). He was 5' 7½" tall; with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. His stated religion was CoE, and he advised he was single. His next of kin remained his father living in Buckland St Mary.

And on enlistment Cecil stated that his date of birth was 12th February 1896 - making him appear one year older than he actually was. No reason has been found for this. It may simply be that he needed to be a year older in order to be sent abroad, and to fight - plenty of other young men did the same thing!

41st Regiment, Brockville, Ont.

Sworn in Sept. 8th, 1915.

80th Battalion (C.E.F.)
ATTESTATION PAPER

Original
No. 219307

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Cecil Robert John Denning
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? St Mary Somerset England
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Edwin Denning Father
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Buckland-St. Mary, near Chard, Somerset, England.
5. What is the date of your birth? Feb. 1st, 1886.
6. What is your trade or calling? Farmer
7. Are you married? single
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? yes *and inoculated* yes *CRJD*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? no service
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

Cecil R J Denning (Signature of Man.)
an beak w (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Cecil Robert John Denning, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions 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.

Cecil R J Denning (Signature of Recruit.)
Date Sept. 10th, 1915. 191 an beak w (Signature of Witness.)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Cecil Robert John 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.

Cecil R J Denning (Signature of Recruit.)
Date Sept. 13th, 1915 an beak w (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 Brockville this 13th day of Sept 191 5

A M Patterson J P (Signature of Justice.)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

J. P. Patterson J. P. (Approving Officer.)

DESCRIPTION OF Cecil Robert John Denning. ON ENLISTMENT.

Apparent Age 19 years 7 months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height 5 ft. 7½ ins.

Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 33½ ins. Normal
Range of expansion _____ ins.

Complexion Fair.

Eyes Blue.

Hair Light brown.

Religious Denominations { Church of England X
Presbyterian _____
Methodist _____
Baptist or Congregationalist _____
Other Protestants _____
(Denomination to be stated.)
Roman Catholic _____
Jewish _____

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.)

Scar on left thumb, inside, at second joint.

Small scar between eyes and bridge of nose.

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 he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

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

Date Sept. 10th, 1915. 191

Place Brookville, Ont.

R. N. Horton
R. N. Horton 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

Cecil Robert John 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.

Date OCT 2 1915

W. G. Hutchinson (Signature of Officer.)

COLONEL
O. C. 80th Battalion, C.E.F.

The 80th was an infantry battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, founded on 10th July 1915 and embarked for Great Britain on 20th May 1916. It provided reinforcements to the Canadian Corps in the field until 30 September 1916, when its personnel were absorbed by units of the 4th Canadian Division. The battalion was subsequently disbanded on 17 July 1917.

We have not found any details of Cecil's front-line service, but we know he was listed as wounded on 30th November 1916. Allowing for a time delay in reporting, it is likely that the incident occurred at the Battle of the Ancre (13-18 November 1916) - the final large British attack of the Battle of the Somme, when we know Canadian units were present.

Back in England after the war (we have no details of why he didn't return to farming in Canada) he married Linda Miller (born 13th January 1893) at St Luke's Church, Wimbledon Park in Surrey on 22nd October 1921. Her father, John William Miller, was a retired police constable.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the couple lived in and around Wandsworth in South London. **Children?**

In 1939 they were living at 2 Clonemore Street, Wandsworth - Cecil was a general labourer, Linda a housewife.

Cecil died on 27th February 1976 - at the time of his death he was living at 87 Slade Close, Ottery St Mary, Devon

Researched and written by Mike Canham



checking if this the right Cecil Denning