

HIS 505 Final Draft

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Sergeant Samuel James Barley / #113073 / Killed in action / Toronto Daily Star, July 4th, 1916

Colonel John Jennings Creelman / Wounded / Toronto Daily Star, May 3rd, 1915

Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers / #11214 / Missing / Toronto Daily Star, August 27th, 1917

Private Herbert Rance / #724598 / Wounded / Toronto Daily Star, August 26th, 1918

Sergeant Samuel James Barley / #113073 / Killed in action / Toronto Daily Star, July 4th, 1916

Sergt. S. J. Barley Killed.
SERGT. SAMUEL J. BARLEY, reported in a recent casualty list as killed in action, was a friend of the Bradys at 120 Mavety street, Toronto, where he made his home prior to enlisting for overseas with the 8th C.M. R. He went from here last July and transferred in England, reaching the trenches in January. Although his home is in England, he lived in Winnipeg 12 years, where he was vice-president of a wholesale drug company. He had not permanently settled in any business since coming to Toronto. In a letter written from England, he says that the military experience is wonderful and he valued his training at at least \$2,000. From the trenches, he wrote many interesting letters, in which he gave credit to a kind Providence for several hair-breadth escapes; and the news of his death is a great disappointment to the friends here.



Gunner L. H. Gardhouse in Hospital.
GUNNER LORNE H. GARDHOUSE, who trained at Kingston and has been at the front for about six weeks, is officially reported to have been admitted in a clearing hospital somewhere in France on June 10, suffering from shell-shock. Gunner Gardhouse was born in Brampton, Ontario, 26 years ago and prior to enlisting for overseas service was employed as brakeman on the Grand Trunk Railway. His home has been with his sister at 33 Shannon street, Toronto, for about ten years past.

Sergeant Samuel James Barley was born on March 19th, 1885 in Billston Staffordshire, England.¹ Sergeant Barley signed his attestation papers on February 4th, 1915² and subsequently officially enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Toronto on February 24th, 1915 at the age of 29.³ Sergeant Barley lived in Winnipeg for twelve years working as the vice-president of a wholesale drug company.⁴ The Toronto Daily Star reported him as having written many

¹ Sergeant Samuel James Barley, Attestation Paper, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 438 - 25, Item 25084, Library and Archives Canada.

² Sergeant Samuel James Barley, Attestation Paper, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 438 - 25, Item 25084, Library and Archives Canada.

³ Sergeant Samuel James Barley, Attestation Paper, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 438 - 25, Item 25084, Library and Archives Canada.

⁴ "Page 3." 1916. *Toronto Daily Star (1900-1971)*, Jul 04, 3.

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letters about his time serving in the army and stated that “the military experience is wonderful and he valued his training...”.⁵ On January 8th, 1915, Sergeant Barley was discharged from the Canadian Expeditionary Force while in France due to demobilization and medical unfitness.⁶

According to Sergeant Barley’s casualty form, he transferred to overseas service with the 8th infantry brigade on January 28th, 1916.⁷ The 8th battalion was comprised mostly of recruits from Winnipeg and consisted of 47 officers and 1,106 other ranks.⁸ On June 2nd of 1916, Sergeant Samuel James Barley was reported missing. The timelines become rather confusing because on July 4th, 1916, Sergeant Samuel James Barley is tragically reported to have been killed in action by the *Toronto Daily Star*⁹ yet there are papers entitled “Medical History of an Invalid” which are dated from February 19th, 1917 which insisted on Sergeant Barley’s discharge and subsequent return to Canada.¹⁰ Due to the rather conflicting timelines, it could be possible that Sergeant Samuel James Barley’s death was falsely reported in the *Toronto Star* and that he could have survived the war completely. There is a grave located in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto, Ontario that is addressed to Lance Corporal Samuel J. Barley and is inscripted with “4th CMR CEF” with the birth date being unknown and the date of death being August 15th, 1948.¹¹

⁵ "Page 3." 1916. *Toronto Daily Star (1900-1971)*, Jul 04, 3.

<http://ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/page-3/docview/1432850506/se-2?accountid=13631>.

⁶ Sergeant Samuel James Barley, Discharge Certificate - Military Service File, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 438 - 25, Item 25084, Library and Archives Canada.

⁷ Sergeant Samuel James Barley, Casualty Form - Military Service File, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 438 - 25, Item 25084, Library and Archives Canada.

⁸ War diaries - 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion - RG9-III-D-3. Volume/Box Number: 4918, Folders 369-371, October 1914.

⁹ "Page 3." 1916. *Toronto Daily Star (1900-1971)*, Jul 04, 3.

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¹⁰ Sergeant Samuel James Barley, Medical History of an Invalid - Military Service File, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 438 - 25, Item 25084, Library and Archives Canada.

¹¹ Mount Pleasant Cemetery (Toronto, Ontario, Canada), Lance Corporal Samuel J. Barley footstone.



COL. J. J. CREELMAN.

CREELMAN A TORONTONIAN

He Was Youngest Canadian Brigadier—Educated in This City.

Col. John Jennings Creelman, brigadier of the Second Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, who is reported **wounded**, is the youngest brigadier in the Canadian forces, and perhaps in the British army, being only 34 years of age. He is the son of A. R. Creelman, K.C., general counsel for the C.P.R., and was born and brought up in Toronto, although he has lived in Montreal since about 1905.

"Jack" Creelman, as the colonel is known, was educated at Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, being graduated in Arts in 1904. He then studied law at McGill University, as his father and family moved to Montreal at about the time of his graduation. He is now a partner of T. Chase Casgrain, the Postmaster-General, in law.

Col. Creelman has always been an ardent **soldier**. While in Toronto he was an officer of the Governor-General's Body Guard. But on moving to Montreal he joined the artillery. At the time of the reorganization of the artillery some eight years ago, he was ranked as major and promptly rose to the command of his brigade.

At the outbreak of war Col. Creelman volunteered the services of his whole command—the first offer of its kind.

Colonel John Jennings Creelman was born on February 14th, 1881 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. There is record of Colonel Creelman participating in the 1901 Canadian census at the age of 20 where he resided in Ward 1 (which according to Goad's Map would have been around the Queen Street East area).¹² Colonel Creelman studied liberal arts at Upper Canada College (also known as Victoria College at the University of Toronto) and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1904 and moved to Montreal in 1905 where he studied law at McGill University.¹³

¹² Goad's Plan, 1910, Plate 30.

¹³ "Page 2." 1915. *Toronto Daily Star* (1900-1971), May 03, 2.

<http://ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/page-2/docview/143230634/1/se-2?accountid=13631>.

According to his attestation papers, Colonial Creelman belonged to an active militia and served previously in a military force¹⁴ as an officer for the Governor General's bodyguard while he lived in Toronto.¹⁵ Colonel Creelman was a part of the 2nd Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery which comprised of 44 officers and 1,083 other ranks.¹⁶ Colonel Creelman was deemed as the youngest Brigadier in the Canadian forces and was described as an "ardent soldier"¹⁷ and on January 1st, 1917 he was awarded the distinguished service order for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field while in London.¹⁸ On May 3rd, 1915, the Toronto Daily Star reported that Colonel Creelman had been wounded¹⁹ and according to his files there is record of a medical case sheet from May 12th, 1915 which indicates Colonel Creelman was poisoned by gas.²⁰ According to his file, it was reported on May 13th, 1915 that Colonel Creelman was experiencing "shock influenza" presumably after being poisoned by gas and that he was "struck off strength" and was "incapable of all service for 3 weeks" and remained in London, England.²¹

Colonel John Jennings Creelman survived the war and according to the war service gratuity found in his military service file. Colonel Creelman officially discharged on September

¹⁴ Colonel John Jennings Creelman, Attestation Paper, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2131 - 43, Item 125016, Library and Archives Canada.

¹⁵ "Page 2." 1915. *Toronto Daily Star (1900-1971)*, May 03, 2.
<http://ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/page-2/docview/143230634/1/se-2?accountid=13631>.

¹⁶ War diaries - 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion - RG9-III-D-3. Volume/Box Number: 4913, Folders 353-35, October 1914.

¹⁷ "Page 2." 1915. *Toronto Daily Star (1900-1971)*, May 03, 2.
<http://ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/page-2/docview/143230634/1/se-2?accountid=13631>.

¹⁸ Colonel John Jennings Creelman, Casualty Form - Military Service File, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2131 - 43, Item 125016, Library and Archives Canada.

¹⁹ "Page 2." 1915. *Toronto Daily Star (1900-1971)*, May 03, 2.
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²⁰ Colonel John Jennings Creelman, Medical Case Sheet - Military Service File, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2131 - 43, Item 125016, Library and Archives Canada.

²¹ Colonel John Jennings Creelman, Medical Case Sheet - Military Service File, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2131 - 43, Item 125016, Library and Archives Canada.

9th, 1917.²² Colonel Creelman passed away on June 29th, 1949 at the age of 67 and is buried in Cimetiere Mont-Royal in Montreal, Quebec.²³

²² Colonel John Jennings Creelman, Medical Case Sheet - Military Service File, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2131 - 43, Item 125016, Library and Archives Canada.

²³ Cimetiere Mont-Royal (Montreal, Quebec, Canada), Colonel John Jennings "Jack" Creelman footstone.

FLYING MAN WAS A FARMER

Capt. P. W. Chambers, Missing, Was
Well Known in West
Toronto.

At West Toronto on Sunday Mrs. W. J. Chambers, 431 Windermere avenue, tells some interesting incidents concerning her husband's brother, Capt. Percy Wilmot Chambers, who has just been reported missing and who is supposed to have been killed while flying in France. **Capt. Chambers.**



He was one of a family of twelve children, some of whom live in the West **Toronto** district.

W. J. Chambers, proprietor of the Buttermilk Dairy, Windermere avenue; Sam Chambers, a blacksmith, of Runnymede road and Dundas street, and R. D. Chambers, carpenter, Durie street, are three of his six brothers; his mother and two sisters are now living at 16 Prince Rupert street, and Mrs. Mountjoy, of 474 Runnymede road, is also another of his sisters.

Capt. Chambers formerly farmed at Pontypool, but just prior to the outbreak of the war he went to Belleville College to study for a doctor. He went overseas with the 3rd (Peel) Regiment, and eventually he found himself in France. At the battle of Langemarck he was wounded. He remained in hospital from April till September, and while there the appearance of aeroplanes flying overhead suggested the thought that he would like to be an aviator. When well enough he secured a transfer into the Imperial Royal Flying Corps. After taking a course in England he was sent to France, and was speedily promoted, first to a lieutenancy and then to captain, and the letter received from him notifying his promotion to the latter rank was the last his friends heard of him till a cable came from England saying that he was missing. Mrs. Chambers tells

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Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers was born May 22nd, 1888 in Pontypool, Ontario.

Captain Chambers was a farmer until just before the outbreak of the First World War where he was studying to become a doctor at Belleville College.²⁴ Captain Chambers lived with his wife on 431 Windermere avenue, in Toronto, Ontario. Captain Chambers was a part of the 4th

²⁴ "Page 2." 1917. *Toronto Daily Star* (1900-1971), Aug 27, 2.

<http://ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/page-2/docview/143232728/6/se-2?accountid=13631>.

Battalion which consisted of 44 officers and 1,121 other ranks²⁵ and enlisted officially on September 22nd, 1914.²⁶ According to Captain Chambers' service file, he was discharged from service on March 14th, 1916 in England due to being wounded in the upper jaw.²⁷ Captain Chambers transferred to the Imperial Royal Flying Corps²⁸ on April 15th, 1916²⁹.



On August 27th, 1917, Captain Chambers was reported missing in the Toronto Daily Star³⁰, and on September 12th, 1917, the Toronto Star had reported that Captain Chambers had become a prisoner in Germany (just three weeks after he was initially reported missing in the

²⁵ War diaries - 4th Battalion - RG9-III-D-3. Volume/Box Number: 4915, Folders 359-361, September 1914.

²⁶ Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers, Attestation Paper, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1610 - 48, Item 94918, Library and Archives Canada.

²⁷ Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers, Military Service Files, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1610 - 48, Item 94918, Library and Archives Canada.

²⁸ "Page 2." 1917. *Toronto Daily Star* (1900-1971), Aug 27, 2.

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²⁹ Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers, Military Service Files, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1610 - 48, Item 94918, Library and Archives Canada.

³⁰ "Page 2." 1917. *Toronto Daily Star* (1900-1971), Aug 27, 2.

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Toronto Star).³¹ It was stated that he was initially feared dead and so the news of being at least alive despite being a prisoner brought great relief to his friends and family in Toronto. According to the Toronto Star, he was wounded in the Battle of Langemarck.³² Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers was killed on August 13th, 1917 at the age of 29 and the cause of his death remains unknown. Captain Chambers died in Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France and was buried in Douai Communal Cemetery.³³ The inscription of his grave reads “Died and lived for others. Loving Memory. Mother, Sisters & Brothers”.³⁴

³¹ "Page 7." 1917. *Toronto Daily Star* (1900-1971), Sep 12, 7.
<http://ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/page-7/docview/1432195760/se-2?accountid=13631>.

³² "Page 7." 1917. *Toronto Daily Star* (1900-1971), Sep 12, 7.
<http://ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/page-7/docview/1432195760/se-2?accountid=13631>.

³³ Douai Communal Cemetery (Douai, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France), Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers footstone.

³⁴ Douai Communal Cemetery (Douai, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France), Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers footstone.

Private Herbert Rance / #724598 / Wounded / Toronto Daily Star, August 26th, 1918

Pte. H. Rance Wounded.
"Wound by gunshot that penetrated through the chest," says official telegram about Pte. Herbert Rance, aged 25, son of Mrs. Charlotte Rance, of 173 Close avenue. Pte. Rance went overseas with the Second Brant Battalion in April, 1917, and was drafted into a western battalion, and has been in the trenches about four months. He was born in Toronto, and is a tinsmith by trade.

Private Herbert Rance was born on February 26th, 1893 in Toronto, Ontario.³⁵ Private Rance appears in the 1911 Canadian census. Private Rance enlisted at the age of 22 on July 18th, 1915 in Toronto, Ontario as a part of the 83rd Battalion in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary force.³⁶ There is record of Private Rance being discharged on multiple occasions: On June 9th, 1916 due to demobilization, on August 25th, 1916, due to being deemed "medically unfit" and on August 10th 1918 due to a gunshot wound in the chest.³⁷ On August 26th, 1918, an official telegram reported to the Toronto Daily Star that Private Herbert Rance received a "wound by gunshot that penetrated through the chest".³⁸ According to Private Rance's service file, he survived his wounds and survived the war and was officially discharged on February 1st, 1919 and embarked on the S.S. Carmania that left from Liverpool on February 1st, 1919 and arrived in Halifax on February 9th, 1919.³⁹

³⁵ Private Herbert Rance, Attestation Paper, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8088 - 39, Item 595077, Library and Archives Canada.

³⁶ Private Herbert Rance, Attestation Paper, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8088 - 39, Item 595077, Library and Archives Canada.

³⁷ Private Herbert Rance, Particulars of Discharge - Military Service Files, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8088 - 39, Item 595077, Library and Archives Canada.

³⁸ "Page 10." 1918. *Toronto Daily Star* (1900-1971), Aug 26, 10.

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³⁹ Private Herbert Rance, Military Service Files, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8088 - 39, Item 595077, Library and Archives Canada.

Reflective Statement

The research that I have conducted since submitting the initial draft has been quite substantial. Before I began to research for other parts of my final draft, I made sure to go back and thoroughly look through each of the soldiers' respective war diaries and military service files. I particularly combed through each soldier's service files again to see if there was any information that I had missed the first time around that could be useful to use in my final draft which proved to be extremely helpful as I found quite a lot more information in regards to certain soldiers discharge circumstances like Private Herbert Rance and Colonel John Jennings Creelman. While for some soldiers retracing my initial steps and going through their service files proved to be helpful, it became more confusing for others.

Take Sergeant Samuel James Barley for instance, his military service file becomes quite confusing and the circumstances of his death remain unclear despite the Toronto Star reporting him to have been killed in action. I became skeptical and attempted to do further research and found a grave addressed to a Lance Corporal Samuel James Barley. The reason why I am unsure whether it is actually him or not is because there is no specific birth date and he was the only Samuel James Barley registered in the system on Find A Grave that was buried in Toronto. I attempted to research through more Toronto Star postings to see if there was any further information on each soldier's circumstances and whether or not they survived the war. Initially I spent a lot of time doing this for Sergeant Samuel James Barley and struggled to find anything, however, I did find another news posting for Captain Percy Wilmot Chambers that stated he had become a prisoner of war in Germany. Between the news postings I found about Captain Chambers, his military service file, and date of death on his grave I can confirm that he was likely killed while being kept a prisoner by the Germans after the Battle of Langemarck.

Now that I had successfully retraced my steps and found extra information, I began to research for my final draft. For each soldier I followed the same formula of searching through the City of Toronto Archives, Canadian Census Records, Goad's Atlas, and Find a Grave. In Captain Chamber's article, it stated that he resided at 431 Windermere avenue and when I curiously typed the address into Google Maps to see if the residence was still standing or what it has turned into now, I see that it has turned into a hair salon located in Bloor West Village that I myself have walked past and driven past countless times while living in the area myself which was a fascinating realization and almost made me feel a lot closer to the soldier I chose. A lot of the soldier's that I chose didn't appear in any of the Canadian Census records save for Colonel Creelman in which I was able to locate his ward using the Goad's Atlas. I struggled to find pictures relevant in the City of Toronto Archives but ironically enough what helped me the most in my final draft research was Find a Grave. I was able to locate each soldier's grave (except for Private Rance) and that was able to tell me (for the most part) their birth date, death date, and the cemetery where they are buried. Their death date also told me right away whether or not they survived the war and based on that I was able to retrace their military service file and look for discharge papers and discharge dates.

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