

Anthony Temple

Captain

2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion



Anthony and John Temple were brothers from Durham with careers that took them in totally different directions. Anthony was a solicitor who plied his trade in Kington, while John followed in his father's footsteps and became a member of the clergy. I should point out that this Anthony Temple is not the Anthony Temple commemorated on Kington War Memorial, but his uncle. In 1857 John Temple had married Elvira Bond of Axminster and in the 1861 census is recorded as the Curate of Welsh Bicknor, a tiny little hamlet nestling on the banks of the River Wye on the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire border. Their first child Mary (1861) was born in Welsh Bicknor and over the next eighteen years, five more children followed. Arthur Wardie Temple in 1864, John (1866), Eleanor (1870), Edward (1872), Gwladys (1878) and finally, the focus of this biography Anthony, was born on the 21st August 1879. By the 1871 Census the family had moved to Wambrook on the Dorset/Somerset border and John was recorded as the Curate of Wambrook. Sometime after 1881 the family had moved again and were living in the Vicarage at Bothenhampton, just outside Bridport, where John was the local vicar. Tragedy hit the family in 1885 when Elvira passed away at the age of 52. She was buried on the 11th December in Bothenhampton churchyard and it is quite possible John took the service. Poor Anthony was just six years old when his mother passed away.

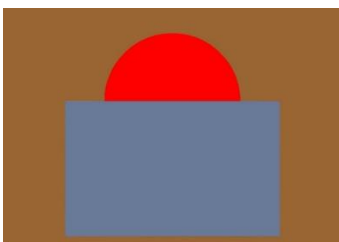
In the 1891 Census Arthur Waldins Temple, the oldest son, is recorded as being a solicitor and it is believed that for some time he was under the tutelage of his uncle Anthony in Kington. The family were devastated again in 1893 when John, the patriarch of the family, passed away and on the 5th October 1893 was buried in Bothenhampton churchyard along with his beloved wife Elvira. Anthony was schooled

in Bridport but with both his parents dead, Bothenhampton had nothing to hold him. He too decided the legal profession was his calling and it is at this point that Anthony's association with Kington develops. Uncle Anthony ran his legal practice from his home at 18 Bridge Street and it was here that Anthony junior joined his uncle and was employed as an Articles Clerk. In the 1901 Census Anthony junior, still an Articles Clerk, is found visiting friends in St. Albans but before the next census in 1911, his life and circumstances had change dramatically.

On the 28th March 1910, having sailed from Liverpool, Anthony Temple arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia aboard the SS Victorian, he had emigrated to Canada. He settled in Kelowna, a large town in British Columbia, where he went into partnership with a Mr Burne and set up the legal firm of Burne and Temple Solicitors. Anthony settled into Kelowna life well and on the 16th June 1913, at St Micheals, All Angels Church, Kelowna, married his sweetheart Gwendolen Marion Binger. Gwenddolen was a local Kelowna girl from a well to do family and the rather grand affair was reported in the local newspaper, *The Kelowna Record*, on the 19th June 1913.

Monday 16th June was the occasion of an event which has not been equalled in the annals of nuptial ceremonies in Kelowna. Rain tried to quench spirits but at the eleventh hour the sun won out. The bridegroom is a Lieutenant in the 'D' Squadron of the BC Horse and full military dress was worn. The bride wore a white satin bridal gown, surmounted by an Irish lace veil and adorned with real orange blossom. After the service the party returned to the bride's parent's house where 125 guest's enjoyed the reception with a sumptuous feast and magnificent wedding cake. Many of Mr Temple's relatives from Kington, England sent cheques, gifts and congratulations.

Anthony's idyll of married life was not to last. On the 8th December 1914, at the rather advanced age of 35, Anthony Temple joined the 2nd



Distinguishing Patch of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles

Canadian Mounted Rifles. Having already served as a Lieutenant in an Active Militia, The British Columbian Horse, he was immediately advanced to Captain. Interestingly enough, Anthony

declared that his next of kin would be Major A. W. Temple, his older brother, of Bridport in Dorsetshire. Why he chose Arthur over his wife is a perplexing mystery. Incidentally on the same day, 8th December, in Kelowna, Arthur Macdonald Temple, a Poultry Farmer, also enlisted. Arthur was the son of Major Arthur Waldie Temple back in Bridport. Clearly Anthony was not the only Temple to have expanded his horizons. About this time Gwenddolen gave birth to their first and sadly only son, William Anthony Binger Temple.



The battalion became part of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force and by analysing movement dates it is probable that Anthony never saw his son, William.

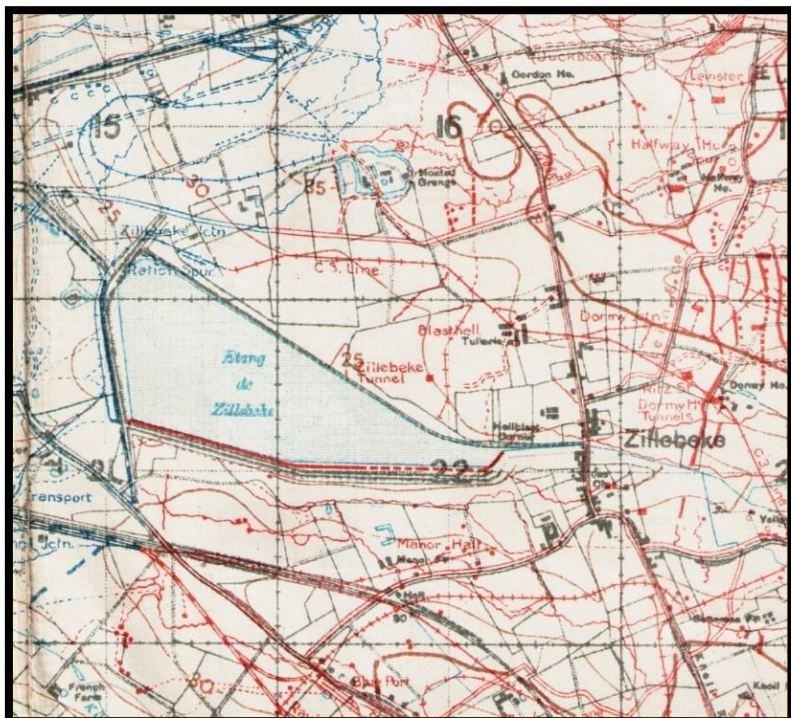
The battalion embarked for Great Britain on the 12th June 1915. In the April of 1915 a Canadian Training Division had been established at an army camp called Shornecliffe outside Folkestone on the Kent coast, and it was here that Anthony's battalion were despatched. While the men undertook intensive training the battalion was administratively organised and prepared for overseas service. On the 22nd September 1915 they marched out of camp and down to Folkestone docks where they boarded the SS La Marguite and sailed for France. At 9:30pm that evening, 449 men of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles landed in Boulogne and formed part of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles Brigade. As the war of attrition progressed it became increasingly clear that mounted regiments were wholly inappropriate for the trench warfare which had developed. Consequently on the 1st January 1916 the battalion dismounted and were re-designated as an infantry regiment and formed part of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division.

For the next six months the battalion were moved in and out of the trenches. The 26th February 1916 *Kington Times* reports that;

Captain Anthony Temple was slightly injured in the previous week but that it was understood the injuries were not serious and that he had recovered and returned to duty quickly.

We can surmise that minor injuries were not uncommon. Scrutiny of the Battalion War Diary reveals that in March 1916 they were billeted just outside the Belgian town of Zillbeke, a mile or so to the south east of Ypres. On the 31st March the battalion's four Companies were split, with 'C' & 'D' Companies moving into the front line, relieving their comrades of the 1st Canadian Mounted Battalion. Headquarters and 'A' Company moved to an area called Halfway House, just outside Zillbeke and 'B' Company were moved to what the diary describes as the Zillbeke Huts, thought to be huts for sheltering in. This arrangement was stable for the next couple of days but each day minor casualties were reported. On the 2nd April 'A' & 'B' Companies

moved into the trenches with 'C' & 'D' retiring into support trenches. The weather at this time was very fine and each day reports of enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflying their positions were made. At 7pm on the evening of the 4th April the battalion were relieved by regiments of the 49th Division and by 2am on the 5th the changeover had been completed successfully with no casualties incurred. The battalion began to move north-west away from the front and toward the railway line to Ypres. The War Diary records



that while retiring, a Major Mutrie and Captain Temple were killed by a stray shell near the Ypres Crossing. A grenade officer and three 'other ranks' were injured at the same time. The battalion entrained to Vlamertinghe on the north-west of Ypres to rest billets. The Canadian Commonwealth War Graves Register adds a little more detail. It appears Anthony was injured by the shell and taken to No2 Canadian Field Ambulance where he did in fact die in the main dressing station. Anthony Temple was 'killed in action' on the **5th April 1916** at the age of 36. The terribly irony of Anthony's death is that he was being relieved and was retiring from the danger of the front line. If they were in range, no one was immune from the enemy's heavy artillery. The map above is a British military field map of May 1918. It clearly shows Zillbeke and, top right, Halfway House. In the bottom left corner can be seen the railway line to Ypres, which lies just a couple of miles north-west of the area depicted on the map. It is depressingly sad that virtually nothing had changed militarily in the two years between Anthony's death and this map being produced.

Already having been injured in the February, the *Kington Times* were quick to report the demise of Anthony. The report in its April 8th edition read as follows:

We regret to state that information was received on Thursday by Mr Anthony Temple of Kington, that his nephew, Captain Anthony Temple has been killed in action whilst serving with the Canadian forces. The sad news will evoke much regret and sympathy in Kington where Captain Temple was well known. He resided in the town for some years with his uncle Mr Anthony Temple, to whom he was articled as a solicitor. Some few years ago he went to Canada where he followed his profession, and when the war broke out he was practicing as a solicitor at Kelowna, British Columbia. Captain Temple leaves a widow and an infant in Canada and much sympathy will be felt with Mrs Temple and her sad loss.

Understandably the demise of Major Mutrie and Captain Temple was also reported in the Canadian Press. In the *Toronto Globe*, dated 9th May 1916 the following report appeared:

Killed by Chance Shell

Vancouver May 8th

Particulars of the death of Major R F Mutrie of Vernon and Captain Anthony Temple of Kelowan, B.C. both Officers of the CMR. Have been received by friends. Both were killed instantly by a chance shell about 4 am on the morning of the 5th April, when they were leaving the front line trenches to go to the rest camp with their regiment.

The following day, on the 6th April 1916, Captain Anthony Temple was buried in Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, grave reference I.F.33. Poperinghe, now Poperinge, is a small town close to Ypres. Originally the area was used as a Casualty

Clearing Station but by 1916 it became necessary to move the Clearing Station further back and Field Ambulances took their place. As can be seen from the photograph on the right the cemetery is very centrally located in the town.

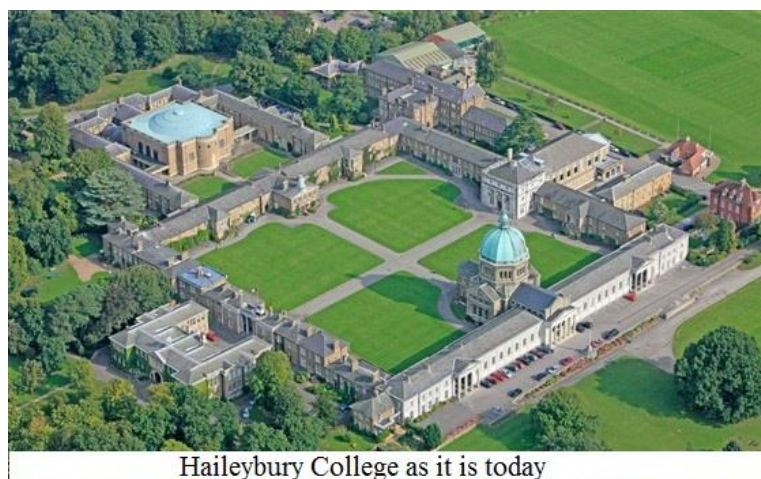


Poperinghe New Military Cemetery

Any story about Anthony would not be complete without bringing the families story up to date. An incoming passenger list shows that on the 15th July 1919 Gwenddolen

and William arrived in England. Gwenddolen stated that they would be living at 5 North Pallant in Chichester, West Sussex but why she chose Chichester is unclear. What is clear is that Gwenddolen had every intention of eventually moving her small family to England, permanently. In March 1920 the two are recorded having sailed from Liverpool, returning back to Canada and arriving in Montreal on the 23rd March 1920. They stayed in Canada for a while and we find them living back in Kelowna in the 1921 Canadian Census. But, on the 10th September 1922, Gwenddolen and William left Canada for the last time. Gwenddolen states that she was leaving Canada for good in order to get her son educated and intended staying with her sister-in-law in Guildford. Gwenddolen's story is not all sadness though. Not only did she find education for her son but also romance for herself and in 1924 she remarried, in Edmonton, Middlesex, to a Mr Harry Taylor.

As we know William Anthony Binger Temple was born in Kelowna in 1915. Gwenddolen had brought him to England to be educated. This she certainly achieved



Haileybury College as it is today

with him attending Haileybury College in Hertfordshire and in the 1930's he also spent time in Mexico as an agricultural student. Upon his return from Mexico in 1941, he married Patricia Muriel Britton in Henley. During the Second World War William served in the army, initially serving in the Worcestershire Regiment but then transferring to the Army Air Corps, 7th (Light Infantry) Parachute

Regiment (Special Forces). He was a Lieutenant and served as Platoon Commander for 'A' Company. At 1am on 6th June 1944 his battalion were parachuted into Drop Zone (DZ) Ranville and relieved the glider borne coup-de-main that had earlier captured the bridges across the Orne River and Canal. By 3.25am the battalion had

occupied their objectives at Le Port and Benouville with 'A' and 'B' companies heavily involved in fending off enemy counter attacks. Lieutenant William Temple was badly wounded in the first few hours after landing in France and was evacuated back to England where he was cared for in St. Mary's Hospital Portsmouth. William died of his wounds on the 16th June 1944 and is now buried in St Peters and St Pauls Churchyard, Checkendon, Oxfordshire.

Finally, you will recall that Anthony nominated his brother, Major Arthur Waldie Temple, as his next-of-kin. Major Temple worked in Bridport as a solicitor and commissioner of oaths. He had served in the army prior to the outbreak of war in 1914 and hence reenlisted as a Supernumerary Officer (an officer over and above normal requirement) into the Royal Field Artillery, where he was employed as a recruiting officer. It appears this happened in 1915 at which point he was advanced to the substantive rank of Major. Arthur was married to Rosa Fruing Stephens and they had two children, Arthur MacDonald Temple, who you will recall enlisted in Kelowna on the same day as Anthony, and Raymond Temple. When Arthur Waldie died on the 18th May 1918, Rosa had a large marble memorial cross erected in Bridport Cemetery where he was buried. Rosa then moved to Canada where we assume she lived with her son Arthur, who fortunately survived the war.

Gwenddolen lost her beloved Anthony, during the First World War and then, just 28 years later, her son William during World War Two. The heartache this caused her must have been unimaginable. But her losses were just two of many. When World War One came to an end on 11th November 1918, Canada could boast a population of approximately eight million. More than 650,000 of those served for Canada and Newfoundland during the war. Of those, 66,000 made the ultimate sacrifice and 172,000 more were wounded. Such sacrifice led to Canada being recognised as a separate signatory on the eventual Peace Treaty. No longer just a colony of Britain, the blood of their sons and daughters earned them, national status.