

HARDY, Charles Howard

Service Number 431152
Rank Private
Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment) 29th Battalion

Born December 15, 1895, Nanaimo, BC
Died November 6, 1917

Occupation Steam Engineer
Marital Status Single

Charles Hardy Jr came from a large, well-known Nanoose Bay family. His father, Charles Sr had a lumber mill at Beaver Creek which he later moved to Nanoose Bay beside the First Nation reserve. He built a large house for his family, and cottages and cabins for workers. His mother, Sarah, was active in church and the Nanoose community, and his sister, Netta, became the first teacher at Montrose School. Charles Jr worked as a steam engineer, probably in his father's mill, a hazardous occupation in the early 20th century.

Charles enlisted in June 1915 with the 48th Battalion. On arriving in England, he was absent without leave for two days and docked pay. By September, he was in France and eventually transferred to the 29th Battalion. In 1916, he contracted tonsillitis and was wounded twice, once by a gunshot wound to the head; he rejoined his unit each time after treatment.

His military records reveal he was appointed Lance Corporal in September 1916; however two months later, following his second brush with death, he was docked pay and demoted to private following an absence of one day and insolence to a superior.

Charles Howard Hardy was killed in an attack near Passchendaele and is buried at the Tyne Cot British Cemetery near Ypres, Belgium.

Sources: Photo: Parksville Museum & Archives
 Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
 Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
 Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada
 Obituary, Daily Colonist, December 1, 1917
 The History of Nanoose Bay, compiled by Barbara Prael Sivertz 1980

