

BENNETT PELL (1895-99)



Date of Birth	4 January 1882, Dennington, Suffolk
School Information	Brother of Paul Brackenbury Pell (1896-99)
Career Information	None
Date Of Death	2 September 1918
Cause of Death	Killed in action
Location	France
Cemetery	Dury Crucifix Cemetery. France – Plot – I. A.44
Rank	Private
Branch of Service	46 th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Saskatchewan Regiment)

We are indebted to Philip Goodright for providing the following additional information and the photo of him.

Bennett was the eldest son of five children born to John Andrew Pell and his wife Rebecca (nee Saward). He had an elder sister Fanny Matilda (1881-1902). Two younger sisters. Helen (1885-1922) Mary Augusta (1886-death date unknown) and his younger brother Paul Brackenbury (1887-1955)

He was born in Dennington in 1882 and after he left the college he signed up to go into the Imperial Yeomanry in 1899 where he remained until 1902, he was sent to Africa to fight in the Boar War. At that time the Yeomanry only took middle to upper class people so he must have been from a pretty well of family. He served with the 7th (1st Leicestershire) Company, 4th Battalion and was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal

He left the Yeomanry and in May 1903 sailed from Glasgow on the vessel Pomeranian to Montreal, Quebec, Canada where he landed on 31 May.

Then in 1906 aged 24 he was working in the district of Mackenzie, The Province of Saskatchewan, working building the railway network across Canada, he was in railway camp number 1. Here he remained until 1915.

At some stage in his life he bought and owned The Green Farm in Stambourne Essex, which he left to his brother in his will.

In 1915 he signed up for the 46th Battalion of the Canadian expeditionary force which was part of the 1st Canadian Division (see his attestation paper below). He landed in France in 1915 and was in most of the battles involving the 1st Division before meeting his fate in 1918 at Dury. After taking Arras his battalion was sent to defend the village of Dury. Somehow, Bennett got separated from the rest of his battalion and was found later in the day with a bullet hole in his chest from which he later died from.

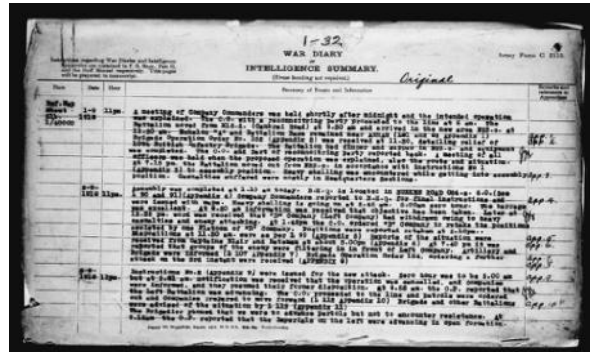


This first part comes from the war diary of his battalion and describes the attack which led to his death :-

"The 46th Battalion attacked through the Drocourt-Queant Line on 2 September, took the village of Dury, and held it against a German counterattack. The 46th suffered 320 casualties, including Maj Rankin, who nevertheless remained on duty. In turn they inflicted a large number of casualties on the Germans, captured a 77mm field gun, 16 machine guns, and a small anti-tank gun, and took over 400 prisoners. Included in the haul were the German area commander, his assistant and medical staff, and a large quantity of documents, which were captured when D Company, attacking on the left, overran a German headquarters.

The Drocourt-Queant Line represented the west edge of the Hindenburg Line. The Canadian 1st and 4th Divisions, assisted by the British 52nd Division, took the line and advanced to the West Bank of the Canal du Nord.

The 46th was relieved on 4 September. They received over 150 replacements and conducted training until the 25th, when they moved back into the line, relieving elements of the 25th and 26th Battalions, and prepared to attack."



2 duplicate
ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 888719

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio. 0

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. What is your surname?..... | Pell. |
| 1a. What are your Christian names?..... | Bennett. |
| 1b. What is your present address?..... | Lestock, Sask. |
| 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... | Derrington, England. |
| 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... | Paul B. Pell. |
| 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... | Water Hall, Essex, England. |
| 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?..... | Brother |
| 5. What is the date of your birth?..... | Jan, 3rd, 1882 |
| 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. | 4th Regt. Imperial Yeomanry. |
| 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, **Bennett Pell**, 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, **Deer. 1st** 191**5**.
Bennett Pell (Signature of Recruit)
William Benson (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, **Bennett Pell**, 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, **Deer 1st** 191**5**.
Bennett Pell (Signature of Recruit)
William Benson (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 **Kellihor, Sask.** this **1st** day of **Deer** 191**5**.

[Signature] (Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 23.
 29031-1-35
 H. Q. 1172-26-941.

This is the memorial for the Canadians who died defending Dury, and it is the actual field on which they all died.

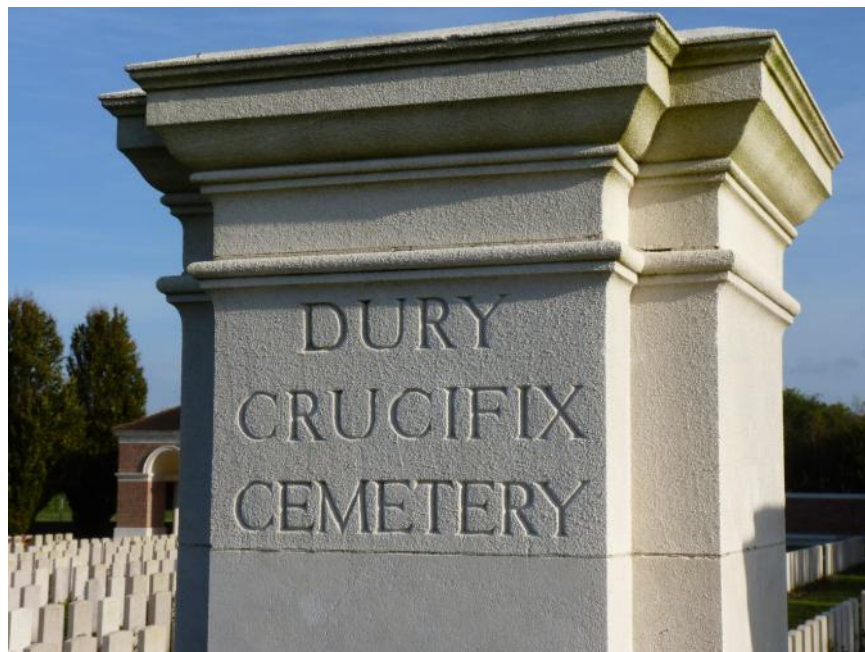


This is the memorial in Canada for all the servicemen and women from Saskatchewan who lost their lives in World War 1. Bennett Pell's name is on this.



In October 2014 there was an OF visit to his grave in Dury.





In comparison Philip Goodright has provided the following photo of the original grave cross, which must have been taken not long after he was killed looking at the surrounding terrain. He has also provided the following photo of Bennett Pell, believed to have been taken in 1916 before going off to France.



Philip also had these :-

