

# CECIL CHARLES ALGAR

## Private 255032

Cecil Charles Algar was born in Newton Ferrers on 4 February 1892, and baptised in Holy Cross Church on 25 March 1892. He was a son of Charles and Laura Algar, who lived at Myrtle Cottage, Riverside Road West. Charles was the master baker, and also ran a small carting business which transported road-mending stone to work sites. He was also the enumerator for Newton Ferrers for the 1901 census<sup>1</sup>. Charles and Laura had a total of 17 children, of whom four died in infancy. Charles' sister Emily married Ernest Veale Irish, who farmed at Post Office Farm at Bridgend. They had no children, and thus many Algar children came to live at the farm. One such was Laura, born in 1911. She moved into Post Office Farm at the age of 11 months – and Laura Hingston has been there ever since. In the 1901 Census Cecil is shown as living at Post Office Farm.

He attended the local school from 4 February 1895 until 20 January 1905 (Roll No. 343). After leaving school he helped with the carting business until one day he saw an advertisement from a farmer in Okehampton needing help with transporting a flock of sheep to Canada. Cecil joined this expedition<sup>2</sup>, and then settled in Canada, buying land in Westerleigh, Saskatchewan.

Cecil Algar enlisted in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force on 27 March 1916 (see Attestation Paper opposite), and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles (Saskatchewan Regiment), training as a sniper. The regiment formed part of 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division. During the Second Battle of Arras an action took place from 26 to 30 August 1918 known as the Battle of the Scarpe. Three Canadian divisions attacked German defences at 3.00 am on 26 August, with 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in the centre and its left flank on the River Scarpe. Within five hours the division had captured the village of Monchy and continued to advance against well-entrenched opposition. Over the four days of the battle the Canadian soldiers had moved forward some eight kilometres, in what was hailed as one of the finest advances of the Canadian Army. However, one of the casualties on the first day was Private Cecil Algar, killed in action aged 26, and remembered with honour at Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt (Plot VII.B.7). Like his brother Wallace, he is also remembered on the family memorial in Holy Cross churchyard.



<sup>1</sup> Now available for free on the Internet in Plymouth City Library – the pages are in his handwriting.

<sup>2</sup> The war memorial at St Peter's Revelstoke contains the names of four Canadian soldiers – Charles Axworthy, John Hodge, Stanley Penwell and William Popham. Perhaps they emigrated on the same expedition?



255032  
L.S. card 174/16

# ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. *Duplicate*

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio.

## QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname?..... Algar
- 1a. What are your Christian names?..... Cecil Charles
- 1b. What is your present address?..... Westerleigh, Sask.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... Newton Ferrers, Plymouth, Enga
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... Charles John Algar (Father)
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... Newton Ferrers, Plymouth, England
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?..... Father
5. What is the date of your birth?..... 4th February 1892
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... Farmer
7. Are you married?..... Single
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?..... No
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... No
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 } Yes  
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }

## DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Cecil Charles Algar, 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.

Cecil C. Algar (Signature of Recruit)

Date..... 27th March 1916. J. Reynolds (Signature of Witness)

## OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Cecil Charles Algar, 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 C. Algar (Signature of Recruit)

Date..... 27th March 1916. J. Reynolds (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..... Moose Jaw, Sask. this 27th day of..... March..... 1916.

A. Heaton (Signature of Justice)

**Commanding 210th  
overseas Batta. C.E.F.**

M. F. W. 23.  
8024-2-16.  
H. Q. 1972-33-841.

**Description of Algar, Charles Cecil on Enlistment.**

Apparent Age 3 years 11 months.  
 (To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

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.)

Height 5 ft 4 1/2 ins.

Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 36 1/2 ins.  
 Range of expansion 1 ins.

Complexion Ruddy

Eyes Blue

Hair Light Brown

Religious denominations. { Church of England, YOG.  
 Presbyterian  
 Methodist  
 Baptist or Congregationalist  
 Roman Catholic  
 Jewish  
 Other denominations  
 (Denomination to be stated.)

Scar 6\_8 " along inner side of left arm.

**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 March 27th 1916. Mrs. B. Underhill

Place Moose Jaw, Sask. Acting 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 Charles Algar 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.

M. Heaton (Signature of Officer)

Date March 27th 1916

**Commanding 210th  
 Overseas Battn. C.E.F.**