

In Memory of

Private

Archibald Skelhorn

820890, 8th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 17 November 1917 Age 36

Son of Henry and Elizabeth Skelhorn; husband of Sarah Skelhorn, of Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Born at Altrincham, Cheshire, England.

Remembered with Honour

La Chaudiere Military Cemetery, Vimy



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Private Archie (Archibald) Skelhorn

8th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, Manitoba Regiment

Died: 17 November 1917

Age: 36

Country of burial: France

Cemetery or Memorial: La Chaudiere Cem, Vimy, Pas de Calais

Town Memorial: Altrincham

Extra Information:

Born on the 31st December 1881 and his birth registered during the March quarter 1881 in the in the Altrincham R.D. - ref: 8a/177, the eldest son of Henry & Elizabeth Skelhorn (nee Newbigging). Birth registered in the name of ARCHIE Skelhorn.

1881 Census - 51 Police Street, Altrincham. (Family listed under the name of Skelhorne) Son - aged: 3 months. Head of household - Henry Skelhorn - Married - aged: 26 - occ: Labourer - born: Millington, Cheshire. Also - Elizabeth Skelhorn - Wife - aged: 27 - born: Scotland. Plus 1 elder sister.

1891 Census - 40 Police Street, Altrincham. Son (listed as Archie B. Skelhorn) - aged: 10 - Scholar - born: Altrincham. Head of household - Henry Skelhorn - Married - aged: 35 - occ: Stoker at Gas Works - born: Millington, Cheshire. Also - Elizabeth Skelhorn - Wife - aged: 36 - born: Scotland. Plus 6 siblings, including his younger brother - Thomas who was also killed in WWI.

Attended St. Margaret's C. of E. School.

1901 Census - 40 Police Street, Altrincham. Son (listed as Archibald Skelhorn) - aged: 20 - occ: Bricklayer - born: Altrincham. Head of household - Harry Skelhorn - Married - aged: 48 - occ: Bricklayer's Labourer - born: Altrincham, Cheshire. Also - Elizabeth Skelhorn - Wife - aged: 47 - born: Scotland. Plus 7 siblings, including his younger brothers - Thomas & Samuel who were also killed in WWI. His maternal uncle is listed as is a visitor.

Attended the Altrincham Presbyterian Mission Hall. Employed by Mr. Samuel Crossley, Stamford New Rd, Altrincham the later at the Richmond Gas Stove & Meter Co, Grappenhall, Warrington.

1911 Census - No Trace - Just arrived in Canada.

Sailed from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on the S.S. Corinthian on the 11th March 1911, arriving on the 21st. He was sailing on his own - unmarried - occ: Labourer.

His father - John Henry Skelhorn died in 1914, aged: 61.

He was residing at 615 Helen Street, Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada at the time of his enlistment. His Canadian attestation form, signed on the 8th July 1916, at Port Arthur, Ontario, states that he was aged 34 years 7 months, 5 feet 6 inches in height, had a 33½ to 35½/ inch chest (fully expanded). His complexion was - fair, his eyes - grey and his hair - brown. The papers also state that he was a Stationary Fireman by trade and that he had previously served for 3 months in the 96th Regiment. Enlisted into the 141st Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., which was a unit in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, based in Fort Frances, Ontario. The unit began recruiting in late 1915 in Rainy River district of northern Ontario. After sailing to England in April 1917, the battalion was absorbed into the 18th Reserve Battalion on the 7th May 1917. He was posted to the front in September 1917.

Religion - C of E. He was married and his wife - Sarah Skelhorn, 615 Helen Street, Port Arthur, Ontario, was listed as his next of kin. When he was killed, he left a widow and 4 children. At the time of his death, his mother was living in Canada.

Mrs Mostyn lived at 40 Police St, Altrincham. Archie Skelhorn was her eldest brother. Her husband was serving in the South Lancashire Rgt. Her two other brothers - Private Samuel Skelhorn, Cheshire Rgt and Private Sam Skelhorn, Canadians had also been killed. Her youngest brother - Private Matthew Skelhorn was a POW. Her brother in Law - Private John Houghton was also serving at the front. See local newspaper report 18/12/1917.

M.I. - "Gone but not forgotten by loving wife and children. Rest in Peace".

Memorials found on:

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Altrincham



Archie's Grave in the La Chaudiere Cemetery, Vimy, France

141st OVERSEAS BATTALION, C.E.F.
ATTESTATION PAPER. No. 820890
TRIPLICATE Folio.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

- (ANSWERS)
1. What is your surname? *Skelhern*
 - 1a. What are your Christian names? *Archibald*
 - 1b. What is your present address? *615 Helen St. Port Arthur Ont.*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Altrincham, Cheshire, Eng.*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Sarah Skelhern*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *615 Helen St. Port Arthur Ont.*
 - 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Wife*
 5. What is the date of your birth? *Dec. 31st 1881*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Stationery Fireman*
 7. Are you married? *Yes*
 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? *Yes 3 months 96 Regiment*
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 CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Archibald Skelhern*, 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 *July 8* 1916. *Archibald Skelhern* (Signature of Recruit)
Chas. P. McNeal (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Archibald Skelhern*, 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 *July 8* 1916. *Archibald Skelhern* (Signature of Recruit)
Chas. P. McNeal (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 *Port Arthur* this *8th* day of *July* 1916

A. D. George (Signature of Justice)

Description of Archibald Skelhorn on Enlistment.

Apparent Age. <u>34</u> years <u>7</u> months.		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.)
<small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small>		
Height	<u>5</u> ft. <u>6</u> ins.	
Chest measured	Girth when fully expanded <u>35½</u> ins.	
	Range of expansion <u>2½</u> ins.	
Complexion	<u>Fair</u>	
Eyes	<u>gray brown</u>	
Religious denominations	Hair <u>gray</u>	
	Church of England <u>Cof. S.</u>	
	Presbyterian	
	Methodist	
	Baptist or Congregationalist	
	Roman Catholic	
Jewish		
Other denominations <small>(Denomination to be stated.)</small>		

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 July 9th 1916 Archibald Skelhorn
 Place Port Arthur Ont Archibald Skelhorn
 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.

Archibald Skelhorn 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.

Date July 9th 1916 Archibald Skelhorn (Signature of Officer)
141st Overseas Battalion, C. E. F.

Archie's Canadian Attestation Papers