



Remembrance

John Loukidelis

August 8, 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Amiens and the 100 Days campaign that culminated with the Armistice on November 11. The Canadian Expeditionary Force played a key role in the battle and the campaign that broke the stalemate on the Western Front after four long and bloody years of war.

The campaign and the war itself, while it brought glory to Canadian arms, cost the country dearly. The CEF suffered about 46,000 casualties between August 8 and November 11, 1918. This toll was about 20% of all CEF battle casualties in the war. According to one author, during the First World War, Canada lost a higher percentage of its population to war than did the United States during its Civil War.¹

It seems fitting, then, to take a moment to remember some of the members of The Hamilton Law Association who lost their lives in WWI.²

Lieutenant Roy Warren Biggar

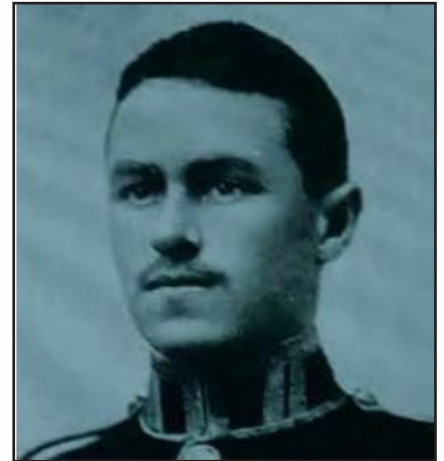


Roy Warren Biggar was born in Hamilton in 1897, the son Sanford Dennis Biggar, KC and his wife Charlotte Elizabeth (Armstrong) Biggar. Sanford Biggar was a Barrister who practiced in Hamilton as a partner in the Biggar & Treleven firm. He served as the Mayor of Hamilton from 1905 to 1906.

Biggar graduated from high school in Hamilton and was admitted to the Law Society of Upper Canada as a student in 1914. He was articling in his father's firm when he enlisted in March 1916, after having served in the Militia with what is now The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada. Biggar went overseas to England in November 1916, and then to the Western Front in August, 1917. Biggar was wounded in October, 1917, and killed in action in March, 1918, in Avion, France. He

was 21. He is buried in Thelus Military Cemetery at Pas-de-Calais, France. He is also memorialized at the grave of his mother and father.

Lieutenant Francis Malloch Gibson



Francis Malloch Gibson was born in 1893 in Hamilton, the son of Major General Sir John Morison Gibson, KCMG, the 10th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and Lady Elizabeth Stewart (Malloch) Gibson. In 1911, Gibson graduated from Highfield School in Hamilton, which was a preparatory school for the Royal Military College. Gibson then attended RMC and graduated from it in June, 1914. Twelve cadets from Gibson's RMC class were killed in WWI.

Gibson was admitted to the Law Society of Upper Canada as a student in 1914. He articled at Gibson, Levy & Gibson in Hamilton. Gibson enlisted as an officer in September, 1914. His unit left for Britain in September, 1914. By April, 1915, Gibson was on the Western Front. He fought at the Second Battle of Ypres with the Canadian 1st Division, which distinguished itself by holding the line in the face of the first mass use of gas by the German army in the war.

Gibson was killed in action on 19 August, 1915. He was 22. He is buried at Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery in Armentieres, France. He is also memorialized on his family's memorial at Hamilton Cemetery.

Second Lieutenant Geoffrey Lynch-Staunton



Geoffrey Lynch-Staunton was born in 1896 in Hamilton. He was the son of Senator George S. and Adelaide (Dewar) Lynch-Staunton. His father was a Barrister, a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and a Canadian Senator.

Lynch-Staunton was a student at Highfield School for Boys in Hamilton and also studied in England, at Downside, a Catholic school. Lynch-Staunton was admitted as a student to the Law Society of Upper Canada and articled under his father. When War began, Lynch-Staunton was at Oxford. He returned to Canada to study at the Ontario Law School, but then enlisted soon after. He enlisted and served for some time in the Canadian Remount Depot – the department responsible for the purchase and training of horses for the Army. He was later appointed to staff at Camp Borden.

Lynch-Staunton arrived in France in June, 1915, and then in December, 1915, he applied to join the British Army. In July, 1916, he was taken on strength with the 13th Hussars. The 13th Hussars arrived in Mesopotamia (Iraq) in January, 1917, as part of the 7th Cavalry Brigade. Lynch-Staunton was killed in action in Mesopotamia in March, 1917, during his first engagement with the enemy. He fell at Lajj on the River Tigris in a cavalry charge against an entrenched enemy position. He was 20.

Lynch-Staunton is memorialized at the Basra Memorial in Al Basrah, Iraq. The Basra Memorial commemorates the more than 40,500 men who died in the operations in Mesopotamia from 1914–1921 and whose graves are not known.

An honourable mention should also be given to Byron Norman Frederick who articled in Hamilton before his death.

W/C Byron Norman Frederick Rawson



Byron “Barney” Rawson was an articling student when he died, but he was admitted to the Law Society as a student after the War, in September of 1945. Rawson returned to Canada after the War, was transferred to the Royal Canadian Air Force Reserve, and enrolled as a student with the Law Society. Unfortunately, he never achieved his goal of becoming a lawyer. Suffering from what we would now identify as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Rawson killed himself on 23 December, 1945.

Rawson was born on 3 December, 1922 in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario to Captain Rev Norman and May Maud (Sexton) Rawson. He had 3 sisters, Betty-May, Helene Marian and Norma Agnes. Rawson attended public school at Glebe Collegiate Institute in Ottawa, Ontario, and Westdale Collegiate Institute in Hamilton.

After graduating from Westdale in 1940, Rawson attended McMaster University in Hamilton. Rawson left McMaster to enlist with the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941. While he was not a student member of the Law Society, Rawson had expressed a desire to become a lawyer. Rawson flew the final operation of his second tour in April of 1945. In early May of 1945, the fighting in Europe came to an end and Rawson returned to Canada. Upon returning to Canada, he was transferred to the RCAF Reserve and was admitted to the Law Society as a student member in September of 1945. He articled under WWI veteran Lance Corporal D’Arcy Argue Counsell Martin, QC of the firm Martin & Martin in Hamilton.

Unfortunately, Rawson had never completed his legal studies and was never called. On 23 December 1945, Rawson took his own life at his parents’ home in Hamilton following what was described as a “complete nervous breakdown”. It was his first Christmas back home after over 3 years overseas. He was 23 years old.

Endnotes:

1 Tim Cook, *Shock Troops: Canadians fighting the Great War 1917–1918* (Toronto: Penguin, 2008).

2 E. Patrick Shea, C.S., *The Great War Law Student Memorial Project* (Toronto: Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP, 2014).

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