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ADAMSON, Agar

MG 30, E 149

Finding Aid No. 118 / Instrument de recherche no 118

Prepared by staff of the  
Public Affairs Section  
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Préparé par des employés de la  
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T A B L E   O F   C O N T E N T S

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## INVENTORY ENTRY

ADAMSON, Agar Stewart Allan Masterton (1865-1929). Military Officer.

Originals, 1889-1902. 1.7 m. Finding Aid No. 118.

Agar Adamson was born in Montreal and entered the service of the Senate of Canada in 1890. He was commissioned in the Militia in 1893 and saw service in South Africa. On his return to Canada Adamson resigned from the Senate staff and entered business in Toronto. Upon the outbreak of World War I Adamson was gazetted Captain in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, with which he served until the end of the war. He attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and for a time commanded the regiment in action. After the Armistice he served as Acting Summary Court Officer in the occupied Bonn region of Germany.

Presented in 1970 and 1974 by Mr. Anthony Adamson.

The finding aid is a descriptive list.

Letters written by Agar Adamson to his wife during the South African War, 1900-1902, and World War I, 1914-1919, with some related memoranda; letters from Jim Smellie to Agar Adamson, 1889-1890.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST

1

Volume

- 1
- 15 November 1889  
Jim Smellie to Agar Adamson
- 4 July 1890  
Jim Smellie to Agar Adamson
- 9 December 1890  
Jim Smellie to Agar Adamson
- 3 March 1900 - 3 August 1900  
Agar Adamson to Mabel Adamson
- 1900  
Agar Adamson to Mabel Adamson, undated and partial  
letters, miscellaneous envelopes
- [ca. 1900]  
Miscellaneous letters to Agar Adamson
- 3 February 1901 - 9 May 1901  
Agar Adamson to Mabel Adamson
- 3 October 1901 - 31 October 1901  
Agar Adamson to Mabel Adamson
- 28 November 1901  
Agar Adamson to Mabel Adamson
- 6 December 1901 - 27 December 1901  
Agar Adamson to Mabel Adamson
- 11 June 1902 - 20 November 1902  
Agar Adamson to Mabel Adamson
- 2
- 29 September 1914 - 20 December 1914  
Convoy to England, Salisbury encampment, Battalion  
orders (3), also a letter from a French soldier to  
Mr. D.C. Haig in Toronto.
- 1 January 1915 - 27 January 1915  
Miscellaneous Regimental business, letters (2) re  
Captain P.V. Cornish
- 4 February 1915 - 26 February 1915  
Adamson moves with a unit of troops from Salisbury  
Camp to trenches at St. Omer.

Volume

- 2            3 March 1915 - 1 April 1915  
Battle of St. Eloi, Mrs. Adamson and Belgium relief.
- 1 April 1915 - 30 April 1915  
Second battle of Ypres, first gas attack, captured and translated German documents, Battalion signals, Polygon Wood trench diagram.
- 1 May 1915 - 26 May 1915  
Ypres Salient, Adamson wounded.
- 1 June 1915 - 12 June 1915  
Convalescence in England, letter to Prof. Mavor and Sir G. Falconbridge, Adamson's opinion on 2nd battle of Ypres.
- July 1915 - August 1915  
Convalescence in England, family correspondence, soldiers "next of kin" correspondence.
- 4 September 1915 - 30 September 1915  
Return to the trenches, the Somme, memorandum on the Dardanelles campaign, French army notes on the subject of "attack".
- 3            2 October 1915 - 31 October 1915  
At the front near Frise, Marcourt, Ferrieres, letter from Prof. Mavor, card entitled information concerning enemy.
- 1 November 1915 - 30 November 1915  
At front near Ferrieres, Amiens, Flixecourt, Flêtre, on leave in Paris, brigadiers message to Princess Pats, letter from R. Cassels of Toronto.
- 2 December 1915 - 31 December 1915  
Two weeks leave, returns to trenches at Flêtre, Le Clytte, Christams in trenches, copy of Christmas message from King to troops and Haig to King.
- 2 January 1916 - 30 January 1916  
In trenches near Flêtre, Kemmel, criticism of C.E.F. Staff. Lecture notes on Battle of Loos, summary of intelligence Dec. 1915, Canadian Corps, gas memorandum, memo on machine guns, memo on mining noises, letter from Gen. Maud on the Dardanelles.
- 4            1 February 1916 - 28 February 1916  
Trench warfare at Kemmel, Flêtre, differences between B.E.F. and C.E.F. described, Ross Rifle mentioned. Letter from Prof. Mavor of Toronto, Canadian Corps

Volume

- 4 (cont'd) summaries of intelligence. Information gained from a German P.O.W., a letter written by German P.O.W. to Mrs. J.A. Gunn, extract from German P.O.W. diary.
- 1 March 1916 - 31 March 1916  
At front near Kemmel, Locre, Roukloshille, trouble with Ross Rifle. Memo on steel helmets, letter from Sam Hughes on Ross Rifle, intelligence memo.
- 1 April 1916 - 30 April 1916  
At front near Poperinghe. Routine orders for 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 1st Army intelligence summary, German report of effect of gas on own troops.
- 2 May 1916 - 31 May 1916  
In trenches at Ypres Salient, comments on Sam Hughes, preliminary notes on treatment of Gassed troops, examples of trench messages, letters from Duke of Connaught and Prof. Mavor.
- 5 4 June 1916 - 30 June 1916  
In trenches at Sanctuary Wood, Ypres, unit suffers great casualties. Copy of an order for a report, copy of "The Militia Faith" an anti-Sam Hughes prayer.
- 3 July 1916 - 31 July 1916  
In trenches at Poperinghe, Mt. Sorrel, Ypres, Ross rifle to be withdrawn, Battalion orders 30 July, program of Gymkhana, report on artillery action.
- 2 August 1916 - 30 August 1916  
In front at Steenvoorde, Zellibede, Menin Road, Ypres, Cassel. Sam Hughes visits troops. Also German army order for counter-attack procedure, memo on reinforcements for P.P.C.L.I., program for regimental "Follies" August 1916.
- 2 September 1916 - 30 September 1916  
Cassel Training Camp, Tara Hill, on leave at Boulogne. Sees first tanks in action, extracts from German war diary.
- 6 1 October 1916 - 29 October 1916  
In action near Courcellette, Warloy, Berteaucourt, Gorges, Noeux, Vimy Ridge, Mt. St. Eloi. 1st Army's Intelligence Reports and extracts from German war diary.
- 1 November 1916 - 30 November 1916  
In trenches at Mont St. Eloi, La Folie-Vimy, Neuville-St. Vaast. Visit of Sir G. Perley, Gen. Byng and Min. of Finance. 1st Army intelligence memo.

Volume

- 6            2 December 1916 - 31 December 1916  
 In trenches at Neuville-St. Vaast, La Folie. Christmas in trenches, trench raids, mine operation, New Years day menu and program. Various battalion orders.
- 2 January 1917 - 31 January 1917  
 In trenches at Mont St. Eloi, La Folie, Neuville-St. Vaast. Trench raids, Confidential report on P.P.C.L.I. officers, Battalion order about trench feet.
- 1 February 1917 - 28 February 1917  
 In trenches at Neuville-St. Vaast, Bruay. Adamson arrested as a spy while on leave in Calais, Gen. Nivelle inspects unit, Mess Sargeants dinner.
- 2 March 1917 - 31 March 1917  
 Action around Bruay, La Folie. Regimental Comedy company, problem of new officers, inspection by Prince Arthur of Connaught and Borden, letter from Prof. Mavor of Toronto, pamphlet on Belgian Canal Boat fund.
- 7            2 April 1917 - 27 April 1917  
 Trench warfare near Villers-au-Bois, Vimy Ridge, Gouy-Servins, Mericourt. Narrative of operations at Vimy Ridge April 8-11, 1917.
- 1 May 1917 - 31 May 1917  
 Action near Villers-au-Bois, Vimy Ridge. Gas attack, letters re death of L. Sladen, letter from P. Molson.
- 1 June 1917 - 28 June 1917  
 Villers-au-Bois, Vimy, Mericourt. Leave in London, investiture at Hyde Park, Gault returns to regiment.
- 1 July 1917 - 31 July 1917  
 Corps Rest Station, Bois de la Hoye, Zouave Valley, Verdrel, Lepugnay. Meets Canon Scott, rumours of Russian Collapse, 3rd Army trench orders, menu of 27 July.
- 8            3 August 1917 - 31 August 1917  
 Lepugnay, Les Brebis, Lens. Heavy Gas attacks, German instructions for counterattack, address by Gen. Sir H. Horne C.O. of 1st Army.
- 18 September 1917 - 22 September 1917  
 (2) letters only - Mrs. Adamson ill, Col. Adamson on leave, letter from Prof. Mavor of Toronto.

Volume

- 8      3 October - 31 October 1917  
 Folkestone, Boulogne, Ypres, Passchendaele. Mrs. Adamson's illness, Col. Adamson in command of regiment. Canadian Corps report of German atrocities, extracts from German documents and correspondence.
- 1 November 1917 - 30 November 1917  
 Action at Passchendaele, Ypres, Poperinghe. Regiment engaged in Battle of Paschendaele, narrative of operations 28-31 October and 1 November 1917. Battle plans and orders, special barrage map, extracts from captured diaries and prisoners statements. Death of Major T. Papineau.
- 1 December 1917 - 31 December 1917  
 Cotte St. Hilaire, Paris, Lens. Rest area, 2 day Paris leave, Halifax explosion, Christmas in trenches. Battalion orders, Christmas card from Duke of Connaught, translation of German document "General Principles of the Construction of Field Positions".
- 3 January 1918 - 31 January 1918  
 Lieven, Boulogne, Bois de Froissart. Adamson aiding in training units.
- 1 February 1918 - 10 February 1918  
 On compassionate leave for wife's illness.
- 20 March 1918 - 30 March 1918  
 Avion, indications of big German offensive, Gen. Currie's Special Order to Canadian Corps 27 March 1918.
- 9      2 April 1918 - 28 April 1918  
 20th Division H.Q. Bois de Froissart. Big German offensive begins.
- 3 May 1918 - 30 May 1918  
 20th Division H.Q. Adamson's son Rodney runs off to enlist, German offensive continues.
- 1 June 1918 - 28 June 1918  
 20th Division H.Q. Chateau de la Haie, German offensive, Adamson's son, squabble over command of regiment.
- 3 July 1918 - 30 July 1918  
 20th Division H.Q. Chateau de la Haie, Paris. Leave in Paris, letters about son.
- 1 August 1918 - 31 August 1918  
 20th Division H.Q. Chateau de la Haie. Description of P.P.C.L.I. battle at Jigsaw Wood.



Volume

- 10      3 September 1918 - 22 September 1918  
On leave in England, visit from Hamilton Gault, back to Divisional H.Q.
- 2 October 1918 - 31 October 1918  
Govy-Sevins, Adamson as a district commandant, allied forces advance, description of Douai.
- 1 November 1918 - 29 November 1918  
Douai, Anzin, Mons. Adamson's description of liberated French towns, attitude of inhabitants, German atrocities. Description of operations of P.P.C.L.I. in mid October.
- 2 December 1918 - 31 December 1918  
Anzin, Duren, Bonn. Description of occupied German towns, Adamson acting Summary Court officer in Bonn occupied area.
- 1 January 1919 - 26 January 1919  
Bonn, Acting Summary Court Officer, memo to H.Q. by Gen. Burstall, Court form of Army of occupation.
- 11      13 February 1919 - 26 February 1919  
On leave in Bruges, London. Wedding of Princess Patricia.
- 3 March 1919 - 27 March 1919  
Sails with Regiment to Halifax, returns to Ottawa.
- 2 April 1919 - 24 April 1919  
Montreal, Toronto, regimental affairs, social life.
- 2 May 1919 - 30 May 1919  
Social life, post war labour unrest.

## War Letters - Supplementary Envelope, 1914-1919

## Photographs (transferred to picture division)

1. Officers of P.P.C.L.I. - 27 August 1914, plus a nominal key to persons in photo
2. Christmas dinner Flêtre ? 1915. Posted in letter of 2 January 1916.
3. Photo of French or Belgian couple in whose house Adamson was billeted 1915.
4. P.P.C.L.I. Pipe Band
5. Unidentified
- 6-7. Princess Patricia reviewing P.P.C.L.I. in 1918
8. P.P.C.L.I. returns to Ottawa 1919

Other documents

Xerox copies of Adamsons obituary in Canadian biography,  
and record of service of leading officers of P.P.C.L.I.

Fragments of letters to his wife.