



## **PRIVATE HARRY OLIVER**

5<sup>th</sup> Canadian mounted Rifles battalion

Service number: 124246

Killed on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1916 at Regina Trench

which was captured by 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> October 1916

Cemetery details: Regina trench Cemetery, Grandcourt

Grave location: II.A.14

Born: 14<sup>th</sup> March 1887

Son of Joseph and Emily Oliver of Little Brington Northamptonshire

Husband of Eva M Oliver of 243, McKay Avenue Windsor Ontario, Canada

Father, Joseph died 1896 aged 52 and Mother, Emily died in 1921 age 73, both parents were buried in St Mary's Churchyard Great Brington.

Attended Brington School: no 589 from 1894-1900

1901 census recorded as a Farm labourer, Little Brington.

1911 census recorded as a Labourer, Woodman on Estate Little Brington

Married 1909, Emigrated to Canada 1911.

The Regina Trench was a German trench dug along the North facing slope of a ridge running North-West of the village of le Sar close to the German fortifications of Thiepval on the Somme Battlefield.

The battle of Regina Trench started on 1 October 1916. The weather turned and rain dominated, the Canadian troops managed to take sections of Regina Trench but were pushed back with heavy casualties. A further attack on 8<sup>th</sup> October failed.

WAR DIARY			Army Form C 216
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
FRONT LINE	October	1	<p>Weather dull and cool. Night passed quietly with occasional shell fire very like rifle or machine gun during night.</p> <p>The following with reference to operations this day - Information The Canadian Corps has been ordered to attack, capture and consolidate the line DESTREMONT FARM (M 21 A 6.4) exclusive - JUNCTION of REGINA and COURCELLETTE TRENCHES - REGINA TRENCH to road running N and S through R 22 A and thence to HESSIAN TRENCH at R 21 d 8.9</p> <p>The 8<sup>th</sup> Can. Inf. Brigade will attack on the left and will capture and consolidate REGINA Trench between the points R 23 A 0.6 and R 22 A 0.6</p> <p>The 5<sup>th</sup> C.M.R. Battalion to attack on the right with the objective REGINA TRENCH from R 23 A 0.6 (road inclusive) to R 22 13.4.4 (Road inclusive)</p> <p>The 4<sup>th</sup> C.M.R. Battalion to attack on the left with the objective REGINA TRENCH from R 22 A 0.6 at which point a Block will be established.</p> <p>The communication trench from R 21 0.8.9 to R 22 A 4.0 to be organised into a defensive flank.</p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chas. Battalion to be in Brigade Support with head quarters at (R 21.0.8.1) R.40</p>

Extracts from war report; frontline October 1<sup>st</sup> 1916

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'The 5<sup>th</sup> RMC battalion to attack on the right with the objective REGINA TRENCH from R .22A .O 6.6(road inclusive) to R.22 13.4.4(Road inclusive)'

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'All displayed the greatest gallantry and devotion to duty. They were severely tried fighting continuously often practically hand to hand for 34 hours against superior numbers. The artillery support was unflinching'

In Memory of

Private

# Harry Oliver

124246, 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion who died on 02 October 1916 Age 29

Son of Joseph and Emily Oliver, of Little Brington, Northamptonshire, England; husband of Eva M. Oliver,  
of 243, McKay Avenue, Windsor, Ontario.

Remembered with Honour

Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

