



**Herbert Tucker**

**Canadian Expeditionary Force  
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light  
Infantry  
Regimental No. 51457  
World War I**

**Born:** 14 Feb 1890

**Died:** 08 May 1915

**Place of Birth:** Ship Cove, Port de Grave,  
Newfoundland

**Parents:** William Robert and Lavinia  
Patience (nee Snow) Tucker

Herbert enlisted in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1914 at Montreal, Canada. His enlistment (or Attestation) papers provide the following information about him:

- He stood 5' 6" tall
- Weighed 166 lbs

- Had black hair with brown eyes
- He was 24 years 9 months old
- A fireman by trade
- Church of England by faith
- Had 6 years previous military service/training
- His unit was the P.P.C.L.I. or Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
- He enlisted for the duration of the war
- He enlisted at Montreal

His service record has very little information in it. It does however; note that he proceeded overseas in January 1915 on board the SS Vaderland.



**SS Vaderland**

*“SS Vaderland was an ocean liner launched in July 1900 for the Red Star Line service between Antwerp and New York. During her passenger career, the ship initially sailed under British registry, but was re-registered in Antwerp in 1903.*

*After the beginning of the First World War, Vaderland was re-registered in Liverpool and converted to a troopship, ferrying troops of the Canadian Expeditionary Force from Halifax to Liverpool. While under the operation of White Star–Dominion in 1915, she was renamed Southland to avoid the German-sounding Vaderland.”*

The next and only entry has him Killed in action on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Herbert's unit was called up to hold a position called Bellewaarde Ridge, Belgium at the Battle of Frezenberg. There were 400 casualties at this battle and Pte. Tucker was one of them.

*"The Honour "Frezenberg" was awarded to 66 British units and one Canadian battalion, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, for their defence of positions preventing a German attack from gaining the ground east of Ypres. Following the battles of St-Julien, the British Expeditionary Force in the Ypres salient withdrew, on 3-4 May, to better positions defending Ypres. The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), part of the 27th British Division's 80th Brigade, moved to positions along Bellewaarde Ridge a few hundred metres west of Frezenberg. On 8 May, a violent German bombardment launched a German attack between Mouse Trap Farm, just north of Wieltje, and Frezenberg. Six German divisions attacked the 27th Division and the 28th on its left. The Patricia's held the far left flank of the 27th Division and were closest to the heaviest portion of the German attack that fell on the 28th Division in front of Frezenberg. The 28th Division successfully repulsed two German assaults before the third assault overwhelmed its defences. The initial German barrage that opened the attack caused several casualties among the Patricia's, wiping out several of their machine gun positions. The battalion called forward all of its men, including orderlies, batmen, and signallers, to help with the defence. The Patricia's open left flank faced a German assault that was trying to roll up the flank of the Division. They fought back repeated German assaults on their positions with rifle fire until, having suffered almost*

*400 casualties during that day's fighting, reinforcements from the reserve battalions of the 80th and 81st Brigades arrived in late afternoon. When fully relieved just before midnight on that same day their strength was down to 4 officers and 150 men."*

Pte Herbert Tucker is memorialized on Panel 10 of the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres, Belgium.