

Private John William Crowe[©]
Regimental number: 3314292
102nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry

born: 28 November 1891—died: 2 October 1918

IN OUR HEARTS
YOUR MEMORY LINGERS
SWEETLY TENDER
FOND AND TRUE¹

This was how Private John William Crowe was remembered by his family. The inscription was requested by his father for his gravestone in Duisan's British Military Cemetery (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 43).² John had died at 4 a.m. on 2 October 1918³ and the Canadian chaplain A. D. Reid presided over his burial the same day.⁴

John had been serving with the 102nd Battalion of the 4th Division of the Canadian Infantry. He was a munitions worker when he was drafted into the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 23 January 1918.⁵ His Attestation document described him as 5' 9½" tall with a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.

At the time of John's death, his battalion was stationed near Blécourt in northern France.⁶ The 1st and 4th Canadian Divisions had been tasked with crossing the Canal du Nord, taking the Bourlon Village and Wood and then heading to the north of Cambrai. The offensive began on 27 September and continued on to 1 October. At 5 a.m. on 1 October, the 102nd Battalion renewed its attack; by 6:30 a.m., it had taken its objective—the Blue Line—and by 10:00 a.m. was positioned on the Red Line. The troops had faced heavy opposition as the enemy began pouring in reinforcements. Nevertheless, the battalion held its position overnight on 1/2 October until it was relieved by the 28th Battalion in the early hours of 2 October. The losses were heavy. During the whole operation, 5 officers were killed and 16 wounded; 56 Other Ranks were killed, 274 wounded and 15 missing. During the same period, 700 German prisoners were captured.

John was probably one of those ORs wounded. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 October with shrapnel wounds to both his legs and thighs. After his death, a letter was sent to Mrs. Mary Crowe in Milton.⁷ She was John's aunt—his father's older sister.⁸

John's parents were Joseph Crowe and the former Isabelle (Bella) Armstrong, of Milton, Halton County, Ontario.⁹ Joseph was born on 23 September 1870, the son of John and Isabelle Crowe,¹⁰ and Isabelle on 29 September 1872, the daughter of William and Jane Armstrong.¹¹ Joseph and Isabelle married on 25 May 1891 in Waterloo, Ontario.¹²

Later that year, on 28 November 1891, their first child, John William, was born in Halton County.¹³ Before his marriage, Joseph had been living with his parents in Trafalgar Township, Halton County.¹⁴ Ten years later, Joseph was a brick labourer and living in Milton, Halton County.¹⁵ The family continued to live in Milton until at least 1921.¹⁶



John William Crowe
1891-1918

John William Crowe
Source: *Findagrave* Photo
added by Patricia Jackson

By 1906, they had had six more children:

Joseph Albert was born on 5 April 1895.¹⁷ He was a machine operator when he was drafted into the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 13 May 1918.¹⁸ Just over three months later, he was granted a conditional leave without pay until further orders on 27 August 1918. After the war, Joseph was a machinist, living with his maternal grandparents.¹⁹ On 27 October 1928, he married Reta Victoria Telfer in Halton.²⁰ He died on 17 July 1964 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Milton.²¹

Jane Scott was born on 14 July 1897.²² She was a telephone operator when she married Harvey Hilliard Blacklock, a farmer, on 26 October 1921 in Halton.²³ She died in 1978 and was buried in Saint John's Anglican Cemetery in Campbellville, Halton.²⁴

Eliza Isabel was born on 5 February 1900.²⁵ She worked as a housekeeper and married Clebert Granville Mc Damell, a farmer, on 5 October 1927 in Halton.²⁶ She died on 27 June 1969 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.²⁷

Mary Ellen was born on 5 July 1903²⁸ and married Clarence Grant Riddell, a labourer, on 10 November 1928 in Wentworth, Ontario.²⁹ She died on 19 August 1976 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.



Memorial in Evergreen Cemetery
Source: *Findagrave* photo added by Patricia Jackson

Anne May was born 26 April 1905 and married John D. Johnstone, a labourer, on 29 November 1928 in Detroit, Michigan. She died on 7 August 1982 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.³⁰

David Edgar was born on 9 June 1906³¹ but died on 7 September 1906 of “indigestion,” which he had had for three weeks.³² He was nearly three months old and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery.³³

John’s mother Isabelle died of heart failure and diarrhea on 16 September 1906³⁴—eight days after the death of her last child. She was just 35 years old. John’s father Joseph died of myocardial disease with heart failure on 16 January 1934.³⁵ Both parents were buried in Evergreen Cemetery,³⁶ to be joined in later years by most of their children. Their gravestone includes an inscription to honour John.

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¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 1 January 2020), entry for Crowe, J. W.

² “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 1 January 2020), entry for Crowe, J. W.

³ “Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914–1948,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 February 2020), entry for John William Crowe

⁴ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” entry for Crowe, J. W.

⁵ “Personnel Records of the First World War,” *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Crowe, John William, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992–93/166, Box 2179-16, Item number: 127641, Digitized service file - PDF format: B2179-S016. Unless otherwise specified, all information about John’s military service comes from this source.

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- ⁶ "War diaries 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.lac-bac.gc.ca: accessed 18 February 2020), Date: 1917/10/01–1919/05/30, Reference: RG9-III-D-3. Volume/box number: 4945. File number: 456. Container: T-10752. Unless otherwise specified, all information about the battalion's movements comes from this source.
- ⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa*, entry for Crowe, J. W.
- ⁸ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 February 2020), entry for Joseph Crone [sic], Province or territory: Ontario, District: Halton, District number: 86, Sub-district: Milton, Sub-district number: 24, City, town or village: Milton
- ⁹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 1 January 2020), entry for Crowe, J. W.
- ¹⁰ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for Joseph Crowe
- ¹¹ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for Isabelle Crowe
- ¹² "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Joseph Crowe
- ¹³ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1858–1913," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 February 2020), entry for John William Crowe
- ¹⁴ "1891 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 February 2020), entry for John Crow [sic], Division number: 1, Enumeration district: 71
- ¹⁵ "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for John [sic] Crow [sic], Province: Ontario, District: Halton, District number: 68, Sub-district: Milton (Town/Ville), Sub-district number: 2
- ¹⁶ "1921 Census of Canada," entry for Joseph Crone [sic]
- ¹⁷ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1858–1913," entry for Joseph Albert Crowe. On his birth certificate, his middle name is Albert. However, in subsequent documents (his Canadian Expeditionary Force file, his marriage certificate and his burial record) his middle name is given as Elmer.
- ¹⁸ "Personnel Records of the First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Crowe, John William, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992–93/166, Box 2179 - 20, Item number: 127643, Digitized service file - PDF format: B2179-S020
- ¹⁹ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 21 February 2020), entry for Joseph Corwe [sic], Province or territory: Ontario, District: Halton, District number: 86, Sub-district: Milton (Town), Sub-district number: 24, City, town or village: Milton
- ²⁰ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 February 2020), entry for Joseph Elmer [sic] Crowe
- ²¹ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for Jean [sic] Scott Blacklock
- ²² "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1858–1913," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Jane Crowe
- ²³ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Jean [sic] Scott Crowe
- ²⁴ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Joseph Elmer [sic] Crowe
- ²⁵ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1858–1913," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 February 2020), entry for Eliza Isabel Crowe
- ²⁶ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 February 2020), entry for Eliza Isabel Crowe
- ²⁷ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Isabel Eliza [sic] Crowe

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- ²⁸ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1858–1913," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 February 2020), entry for Mary Ellen Crowe
- ²⁹ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1826–1937," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 February 2020), entry for Mary Ellen Crows [*sic*]
- ³⁰ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 7 February 2020), entry for Anne May Johnstone
- ³¹ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1858–1913," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for David Edgar Crowe
- ³² "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869–1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for David Edgar Cronic [*sic*]
- ³³ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry*, entry for Joseph Crowe
- ³⁴ "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869–1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for Isabelle Crowe
- ³⁵ "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869–1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 February 2020), entry for Joseph Crowe
- ³⁶ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry*, entry for Joseph Crowe; "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry*, entry for Isabelle Crowe