

## John Frederick Ernest "Dad" Carman as told by Ray Travers

John F. E. Carman was born in St. John, New Brunswick in 1866. He was a relative of Bliss Carman (1861 – 1929), one of the “Confederation Poets,” also of New Brunswick. The Carmans were descended from United Empire Loyalists. John Carman served overseas in World War One with the 49th Battalion, Loyal Edmonton Regiment. The young soldiers knew John Carman as “Dad” because he was 50 years old when he enlisted in 1916. Lieutenant “Dad” Carman and my grandfather Captain Oliver Travers M.C. both served in World War One with the 49th Battalion, Loyal Edmonton Regiment. Oliver Travers, my grandfather, probably saved John’s life in France during an incident at Hill 70. The Battalion’s August 31, 1917 War Diary reads:

“Dad was with the Battalion, latterly a Lieut. - Qt.- Master all through his service until August, 1917, when the battalion relieved the 2nd Division at Cite St. Emilie and Cite St. Pierre, around Lens, in the push of that time. He was wounded at the ration dump by a shell, which injured his leg so badly that he lost that member. It happened just as “D” Co’y came up to that vicinity, and the late Oliver Travers, transport officer (killed at Passchendaele) happened into the trench and notified Major Winsor of his wounding. Luckily the wound turned out not as bad as was thought at that time, for he was given little hope at first. Thanks to his wonderful constitution he pulled through, and I had the pleasure of visiting him while in the advanced hospital, and he didn’t seem very good then.”

A report to the soldiers of his 49th Battalion read “Sorry to hear that Dad Carman was badly wounded last night. He is reported to be doing well in hospital, though it's feared he will lose a leg.... there is no more popular officer in the 49th than Dad Carman....He is going to be sadly missed by the Transport Section... Never was the nickname "Dad" more appropriate.”

Lieut. J. F. E. Carman



Source: *Forty-Niners Newsletter* (1940)

HEADQUARTERS GROUP, FRANCE



Back Row, Left to Right—Pay Sgt. R. Downey, C.Q.M.S. A. T. Nixon, C.Q.M.S. C. Matheson, C.Q.M.S. Dad Carman, Front Row, Left to Right—Arm. Sgt. Simpson, O. M. Capt. O. Travers, R.Q.M. Sgt. J. Walker. Capt. Travers was killed at Passchendaele. Dad Carman lost a leg at Hill 70. Arm. Sgt. Simpson died after returning to Edmonton.

Source: *Forty-Niners Newsletter* (1934)

After the war, Lieutenant Carman resided on Majestic Drive in Gordon Head from 1932 to 1943. He died on February 25, 1943 at 77 years of age. His grave is located in Row D, Plot 5 of St. Luke’s Churchyard. John was remembered as a fine gentleman and a gallant soldier. He left behind his wife, a daughter, Miss Mary Thain Carman, and a brother, G. Mount Carman, in Des Moines, Iowa.