



**CANADA.**

**CERTIFICATE OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION.**

BRANCH OF SERVICE Infantry

**NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.**

This is to Certify that Private. H. W. Kearse 86<sup>th</sup> O.S. Bn. C.E.F.  
has attended a school of Infantry at Hamilton from the \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_ 191\_\_\_\_, until the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 1916, and having passed the  
required examination is qualified for the rank of Sergeant

NOTE.—A copy of this Certificate is filed at District Headquarters, Toronto  
under No. 8076

Geo. Chesney Lt. Colonel  
G.W.A.G. M.D. No. 2

R. L. Laban Lt. Col.  
for G.S.O. M.D. No. 2

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 2.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

No. 174314 Pte. Kearse 86th. O-S. Bn. C.E.F.

passed the examination on the Lewis Machine Gun at  
a special course for non-commissioned officers and men  
at Hamilton, Ontario on May 1st. 1916.

Niagara Camp,

June 23rd 1916.

*R. S. Laban*

Lt-Col.

for G. S. O. M.D. No. 2.

KEARSE, Herbert  
1915 Sept 13-  
1916 May 29.

## Diary.

This is just a few notes  
of events which has  
happened in my travels  
since I enlisted. if ever  
I should become a casualty  
will the finder please  
send this and other personal  
belongings to my wife.

Mrs H. W. Kearse.

Grant Ave  
Burlington  
Ont

Canada

also please communicate  
with Mrs. J. Douglas

High St

Lynsham

Oxon.

England

This is written by  
Pte H. W. Kearse 174314  
Enlisted with the 86<sup>th</sup>  
machine gun Battalion  
at Hamilton Ontario  
on August the 10<sup>th</sup> 1915.  
at present stationed  
at Horncliffe, Kent.  
being the Canadian  
machine gun Depot

so if you will kindly  
return this and other  
personal belongings to my  
Wife + family you will  
have their everlasting  
gratitude and thanks.

H. W. Kearse

Medically examined  
and passed for active  
service on August 10<sup>th</sup> 1915

August 15<sup>th</sup>  
reported for duty  
August 24<sup>th</sup>

received uniform of the  
XIII Royal Regiment  
August 28

Picked out for 86<sup>th</sup> machine  
gun Battalion by Col. Labatt  
Sept 7<sup>th</sup>

Paraded to give send off  
to quota of 92<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders  
to Niagara Camp.  
Sept 8<sup>th</sup>

Paraded to H. C. C. grounds  
to grand fete in aid  
of Patriotic fund.

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>

Paraded to see off quota of  
Dragoons going to Niagara Camp

Sept 16<sup>th</sup>

Paraded to send off quota  
of 76<sup>th</sup> Bantams to Niagara

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>

Paraded to Hamilton fair in  
jockey club grounds on  
Barton Street East.

Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

received new uniform.

Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

Paraded to give send off  
to quota of A. S. C. going  
to Niagara Camp.

3

4

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>

Paraded Streets of Hamilton which were lined with thousands of people. to Gore park where a civic farewell was tendered the 86<sup>th</sup> M.G. Batt who were leaving Hamilton for Niagara Camp. Speakers were the honorable Sir Sam Hughes Minister of Militia and Defence and the Mayor of Hamilton left Hamilton via I. H. B Railway <sup>11 AM</sup> arrived Niagara at 1.30 PM

Sept 25<sup>th</sup>

Grand march past 10,000 men taking part, Premier Borden taking the salute.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup>

first inoculation.

Sept 30<sup>th</sup>

stood on Banks of Lake Ontario to see off Draft of 86<sup>th</sup> en route for England on Steamer Shipawa bands playing and cheering glorious sight

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

second inoculation.

Oct 6<sup>th</sup>

photo taken of A. Company

Oct 4<sup>th</sup>

vaccinated. Grand review at Headquarters parade ground. by his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. Governor General of Canada

Oct 8

Third inoculation and received Ross Rifles.

5

6

Oct 15<sup>th</sup>

Paraded early to see off  
35<sup>th</sup> Battalion en route for  
England. 10,000 troops lined  
up on both sides of the  
Street at Niagara on Lake  
and gave them a rousing  
send off. on the same  
day went on first long  
march to Queenston Heights.

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

Paraded up and down the  
streets of Niagara on Lake  
carrying officers on tent  
floors playing all kinds of  
instruments also made a  
big bonfire prior to  
leaving for Hamilton on  
long march next day.

Nov 6<sup>th</sup>

up early and broke camp  
started on long march at  
12<sup>30</sup> arrived at St Kitts  
4<sup>30</sup> splendid reception  
stayed over Sunday. and  
through kindness of citizens  
of St Batharines every man  
was invited out to dinner  
went to the home of Mr Dixon  
15 William Street had a  
splendid dinner 8 of us being  
there had our pictures taken

Nov 7<sup>th</sup>

left St Kitts 7<sup>30</sup> am. advance  
guard scouted all round the  
hills for enemy who was  
expected to attack us. very  
hard day. Reach Vineland  
where the people had spread  
out for us all kinds of  
pies.

8

and fruit & reached Gormsby  
4.30 stayed on outpost duty  
till 7.30. very tired. had  
to buy our supper or go without  
Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

9

Left for Hamilton 7 am.  
arrived Stony Creek 11<sup>15</sup>  
had good dinner lots of  
pies cake and hot tea  
left there at 1 o'clock.  
reached outskirts of Hamilton  
3.30 had a rest then  
marched to armouries with  
rifles at the slope all the  
way made us very tired  
thousands of people lined  
the streets guns fired  
salute from high buildings  
when we reached Gore Park

Had splendid supper at  
4 o'clock provided by the  
Ladies of Hamilton. then  
met wife & family outside  
and went home with them

Nov 9<sup>th</sup>

Half Holiday.

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>

10

Battalion lined up on both  
sides of armouries when  
adjutant main read a  
dishonourable discharge paper  
drunk and uncleanness  
downamed out.

at 5 o'clock Batt marched  
to G. T. R. Station and  
gave a rousing welcome  
to some returned Soldiers.

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>

First practice at miniature rifle ranges. under armoured made 31 points out of possible 35 never handled rifle before.

Nov 27

Inspection of Batt drill company and section drill by Lt Col. Labatts

Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

Close inspection by General Ferrard. in Victoria Park

Dec 22.

86<sup>th</sup> 120<sup>th</sup>. Dragoons + G.M.A. inspected by the Duke of Cornwall at Victoria Park.

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.

4 days pass for Xmas family all at home.

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1916

86<sup>th</sup> M.G. Batt inspected by General Logie

Jan 22.

Taken to Hamilton City Hospital in ambulance with mumps. in bed a week eat nothing for 4 days. temperature 103 x 3.

Feb 5.

discharged from hospital got 2 days pass to get fit again

Feb 13<sup>th</sup>

First practice on 25 yard range with Ross Rifle made 60 points. possible 70

Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

15 rounds, hard test made 60 points possible 70.

11

1915  
ords

1916

12

1



22  
pay parade + bath / made in afternoon  
seen on my strike, go to YMCA  
at night.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
rifle inspection in morning, in  
afternoon general sports, fine day

April 24  
on hour at 60, instruction under A.P.M.  
on Rover & half, including on Lewis gun  
in afternoon tactical scheme.

2

pay received in  
England and  
France. Book

Opens June 1<sup>st</sup> 1916  
with a balance  
to the good of  
7.10. Pay is \$1.10  
per day with  
20.00 per month  
assigned pay.

June 15<sup>th</sup> £2.0.0  
July 15<sup>th</sup> £1.0.0  
July 31<sup>st</sup> 10/0  
Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> £1.0.0  
Aug 28<sup>th</sup> 1. 10/0  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1 10/0  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1 10/0  
Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 1 10/0  
Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 15 fcs.  
Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 65 fcs.  
Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 30 fcs.  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1917 15 fcs.  
Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 15 fcs.  
Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 15 fcs.  
Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 15 fcs.  
Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> 15 fcs.  
Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> 15 fcs.

### Musketting Hamilton

Miniature Range  
4 practices  
199 points

Service Amunition  
185 points

Hythe Kent England  
Preliminary  
186 Points

Test  
118

Passed as First Class  
Shot.

3

March 5<sup>th</sup>

Tactical scheme carried out at golf links. Staff officers present to test our ability as a fighting force snow quite deep.

March 6<sup>th</sup>

Weather rain snow sleet thunder + lightning next day all slush.

March 10<sup>th</sup>

Rifle practice on miniature range with Ross rifle made 49 points out of 60 just off guard very shaky

March 12 till 18

Machine gun class Lewis, under Serjeant Gladney, passed and received certificate.

March 18<sup>th</sup>

Grand military parade through main streets of Hamilton 8,000 troops taking part thousands of people lined the streets

March 20<sup>th</sup>

H. Company starts a course at rifle ranges marketry - bombing, trench digging and bayonet fighting. Open the military school of instruction under Major Buchanan in charge returned from the front.

Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>

presented with a waltham wrist watch by the Rev A. Barr. from Burlington Baptist Church. having been church clerk for 3 years. it was a big surprise

April 1<sup>st</sup>

first practice at 100 yard rifle range. with service ammunition made 185 points out of possible 215.

April 5<sup>th</sup>

Picked out for machine gun instructor. and the same day starting N.C.B. class under sergeants Stapley and Edwards. also issued with new uniform

April 24<sup>th</sup>

Orders came through to be ready to leave for England in 9 or 10 days. Great rejoicing

April 25<sup>th</sup>

Final kit inspection and a 3 day pass. on my farewell leave

April 29<sup>th</sup>

Grand Review in Victoria Park. by H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall 4000. troops + 4 Bands crowds of people. very fine day and a grand sight. Same day had a written exam in N.C.B. class.

6

7

May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Final examination of  
N.B.C. class by Major Sey  
Major Healey and Major Blisk  
passed and qualified for  
Sergeant.

May 7<sup>th</sup>  
On picquet and listened  
to a recruiting speech  
by the world famed  
Suffragette leader.  
Mrs. Bankhurst of England  
a splendid address and  
a large crowd present  
Major Huggins returned  
from the front also spoke

May 12<sup>th</sup>  
86<sup>th</sup> Batt held a sports day  
at Dundas. nice fine day  
a football match between

129<sup>th</sup> Batt and 86<sup>th</sup> the  
latter winning by 4 x 0

May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Battalion Paraded Victoria  
Park at 11 am when the  
Marchioness of Aberdeen  
presented the colours to  
the 86<sup>th</sup> Battalion given by  
Mrs Gordon Henderson after  
which the Earl of Aberdeen  
gave a little talk wishing  
the Batt God speed on  
their voyage overseas  
thousands of people were  
present. a very pretty  
and impressive ceremony  
in the afternoon the

friend's and relatives of  
members of the 86<sup>th</sup>  
were allowed in the  
Armouries from 3:30 to 5 pm.

to wish them farewell  
before going overseas. it  
was a very pathetic scene  
the Drill hall being crowded  
at 7 o'clock the Batt  
paraded with full kit  
and marched to Ferguson  
Ave and went on G.T.R.  
train for Halifax  
several bands were there  
to play us off and they  
played from the Armouries  
to Stuart St Station to  
mislead the immense  
crowd which had  
gathered outside during  
the early part of the  
evening there was  
two long trains we were

on the first one.  
left Ferguson Ave at  
7.40 had not proceeded  
far when the coupling  
broke and the train  
parted just outside  
Stuart St station first  
<sup>part</sup> of train went into  
the station to connect  
up there was a column  
of soldiers of the 120<sup>th</sup> Batt  
and C.M.R.s drawn up  
all around the station  
but the crowd was so  
great that they broke  
through it was an awful  
~~crunch~~ <sup>crunch</sup>. Sister Rose + <sup>Miss</sup> <sup>Niven</sup>  
Page managed to fight  
their way through to see us.  
Bands were playing all  
the time.

The train left Hamilton at 8.20 p.m. all the bridges were well guarded near the city.

10  
11

May 17<sup>th</sup>  
arrived at Montreal 12 am raining hard hundreds of soldiers on guard at the station. Left at 12.30

May 19<sup>th</sup>  
arrived at Halifax 10 am after travelling through most beautiful scenery after leaving the province of Quebec which was mostly wet lowlying land the agricultural pursuits being very old fashioned saw numerous runways

for logs also numbers of log rafts being floated down the rivers in some places causing a jam owing to shallow water and men working in it to release them went on board the Atlantic a liner of 25,000 tons White star line very fair quarters several British cruisers in sight also the Baltic Empress of Britain and Belgianian an auxiliary cruiser. it is a fine harbor. Halifax is a rather dirty looking city

12

May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Still at Halifax. in the  
afternoon went down  
to see the inner workings  
of the great liner, Boilers  
stokehold and engines  
and electric lighting plant  
the machinery is kept  
very clean it certainly  
is a marvel well  
worth seeing. also  
saw two suspected  
spies taken off the boat  
on to a government  
police boat they were  
stripped of all badges  
and numerals. they  
were members of the  
86<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Still at Halifax. I am  
on guard in a long  
passage. three more  
suspected spies taken  
off, one an Officer

May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Left Halifax 8 am.  
Bussier Drake passing  
us and taking the lead,  
Baltic Adriatic and  
empress of Brittan. in  
line. weather fine  
sea very calm.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
getting rough cold and  
foggy. one hour physical  
drill in the morning. One  
hour life belt and boat  
drill in the afternoon.  
Ran

12

13

May 24<sup>th</sup>  
very foggy. lost sight  
of other boats and cruiser  
driven blowing, very frequently  
cold & rather fresh wind  
cleared at midday turned  
out fine in afternoon  
sick in the morning slept  
for 3 hours then felt better

May 25<sup>th</sup>  
rain nearly all day burial  
at sea from off the Baltic  
had nice bath in first  
class Ladies bathroom  
life boats all swung out  
in case of emergency.

May 26<sup>th</sup>  
fine day. boat drill  
all kinds of sports going on  
passed three vessels in less  
than an hour

May 27<sup>th</sup>  
Weather fine sea very calm  
wearing life belts all the  
time being in the danger  
zone. all kinds of sports  
for prizes. just in the  
midst of it five blasts  
blew on the siren and  
every man had to get to  
his life boat as soon as  
possible. it was a test  
to see how quick it  
could be done. it was  
quite fun to see them  
running in all directions

May 28<sup>th</sup>  
Still fine sea is beautiful  
church service in the  
morning. chicken for dinner.  
All meals are excellent.

14

15



16  
May 28

I am picked out to be with Lewis machine gun in Hurricane deck about 7 pm saw first sign of torpedo destroyers coming up for our escort by their flash light signals it was a splendid sight the boys all cheered had a good view of them plunging through the water at a very fast speed through the officers field glasses there was a of deh up till now we had been steering a zig zag course. Realizing a long walk in the water which looked very pretty.

17  
May 29<sup>th</sup>  
up at 3 am to see first glimpse of the west coast of Ireland. which is very rugged & rocky. now travelling full speed Empress left us. and we have left the Baltic behind splendid scenery all the time sea very calm

May 30<sup>th</sup>  
arrived at Liverpool 7 pm fine view of new Brighton. very rough time all night boys in high spirits  
May 30<sup>th</sup>

up at 5 am. left the boat at 7 pm. Boarded the train and left for Shorncliffe Kent at 8 am.