

ON THE BRINK

The Politics of Conflict 1914-1916 Project

ACTIVE SERVICE

WILLIAM CALDERWOOD

William Calderwood was born and raised in Duneaney, Glarryford, in last decades of the nineteenth century. He and his family left their rural homeland to find better opportunities in the United States. William emigrated to America on 11th October 1909. At the outbreak of the War, he decided to fight, and, as the United States was neutral, joined the 116 Canadian Infantry. He was wounded in France and reported missing. Another soldier reported that he had seen him being killed, bayoneted, during a German attack on their position.

Later, his family were informed that he was a POW and alive. When he was released, William set the story straight. A German soldier was about to bayonet him but was stopped by a German Officer on the grounds that that he was wounded and not in combat. After the War, he returned to The States and settled in Illinois.



William Calderwood in 116 Canadian Infantry uniform