

CHRISTOPHER CHOLDCROFT



CHRISTOPHER CHOLDCROFT was born in March 1888. He was the third son in Christopher James and Laura Choldcroft's large family living and working at 11 Woodstock Road, opposite St Giles Church. Mr Choldcroft was a hairdresser and his business was advertised regularly in the pages of the *Parish Magazine*. At the time of the 1911 Census three sons had left home, leaving three daughters helping their father, and the two youngest children still at school.

Christopher, the third of the sons to leave home by 1911, emigrated to Canada in 1913. He sailed from Liverpool on the White Star Dominion Line *Laurentic* in June 1913, bound for Quebec. In October 1914 he volunteered to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. His attestation papers, dated 28 October 1914, gave his trade as Bootmaker and stated that he had previously been a member of the Naval Volunteer Reserve. He joined the Central Ontario Regiment.

The first Canadian Force volunteers arrived in England in November 1914, training on Salisbury Plain before crossing to fight in France and Flanders from February 1915. Christopher was serving as a Private in the 3rd Battalion of the Canadian Infantry in early 1916. The War Diary of the 3rd Battalion for 19 February 1916 reports that Private Choldcroft and two sergeants were killed by a shell at the transport lines at Dramoutre. The page for the day records "NCOs and man buried at LOCRE." Loker Churchyard is 11.5 km south of Ypres town centre. He was 27.

One of Christopher's older brothers, Cecil, served in Ox & Bucks Light Infantry from 1915 to 1917 when he was wounded, but he survived the war and died aged 83 in 1964. Norman, the youngest in the family, and too young for war service, became a chiropodist and worked at 11 Woodstock Road into the 1930s. Their father had continued the family hairdressing business in the Woodstock Road until 1928/9 and died in 1943 in Oxford aged 83.