Name	**WILLIAM FORSTER**
Birth	07/03/1893 Westgate, Newcastle
Enlistment/Occupation	12/12/1914 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Occupation: Grocer's clerk (UK Census)
Death, date, location	26/12/1915 Kemmel, Heuvellan, Belgium
Age	22
Unit, rank,service no:	80025 Private Canadian Infantry 31st Bn William is also recorded with the rank of Lieutenant in the 31st Bn.
Family Acknowledgement CGWC	Son of the late John R. and Dorothy A. Forster, of Wylam, Northumberland, England. (CWGC)
Family	Born in Newcastle 07/03/1893 William was the elder son of John Robert (jack) Forster of Corbridge and his wife Dorothy Ann (nee Fawcett) from Greenside who married in early 1891. By the time a younger son Joseph was born in 1895 the family were living in Wylam in the newly built Reading Institute on Church Road where father was the caretaker and local rate collector. The 1911 Census shows William, aged 18, living at home with his parents and younger brother Joseph aged 16, a student. Their home is still the Reading Institute, in Wylam where their father continues as the caretaker. William's occupation is given as grocer's clerk. At some time between the 1911 census and 1914 it would seem that the family moved to Canada where on 12/12/1914 William enlisted into the 31st Battalion, Canadian Infantry. On his service record his 'next of kin' is given as John Forster, Hazeldene, Strathcona, Canada. This indicates that his father was also living in Canada at the time of his enlistment. William was aged 21 when he enlisted.

	It would seem in a short space of time from the 1911 census, when living in Wylam, William moved to Alberta Canada, then returned to England as a Canadian soldier in May 1915 and then onto France and Belgium in September 1915 where he was wounded on 17th December 1915 and died of those wounds on 26th December 1915.
Battalion War Diary 31st Bn. Canadian Infantry	The 31st Battalion Canadian Infantry was in position at **Kemmel** in Belgium about 6 miles south-west of Ypres when William Forster was mortally wounded. The battalion war diaries at that time record the details of how the different battalions took turns in the front line at Kemmel and it would seem that the 31st Battalion relieved the 28th Battalion overnight of the 15th-16th December. There is regular mention in the directions provided in the war diaries of locations such as **Kemmel Chateux, Kemmel Farm House, Kemmel School house and suicide road.** The regimental records provide the following information regarding William's death:- *'Wounded at Kemmel and later died of wounds.'* *'On the 17th December 1915 at about 2.40pm whilst working as a stretcher bearer this man was shot in the chest. He was evacuated as wounded and would have been sent to Baillieul which was the site of several clearing stations where he is later in the diary reported to have died of wounds.'* It is believed that the Forster family did continue to live in Canada and eventually moved to Seattle.
Battalion	31st Battalion (Alberta) Canadian Infantry was raised 07/11/1914 recruiting in Alberta and mobilised at Calgary. The Battalion embarked for England 17/05/1915 and following training in England entered France 18/09/1915. The Battalion

	formed part of 6th Infantry Brigade which was part of 2nd Canadian Division.
Memorial	I. D. 157. BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, NORD Also commemorated in:- School War Memorial Plaque, Falcon Centre Wylam War memorial Plaque St.Oswin's church, Wylam War Memorial Monument, Village Green, Wylam
Comments	William's personal and service details are fully recorded on the Canadian Great War Project website.
Sources	Commonwealth War Graves Commission 1891/1901/1911 Census Canadian Great War Project website.