

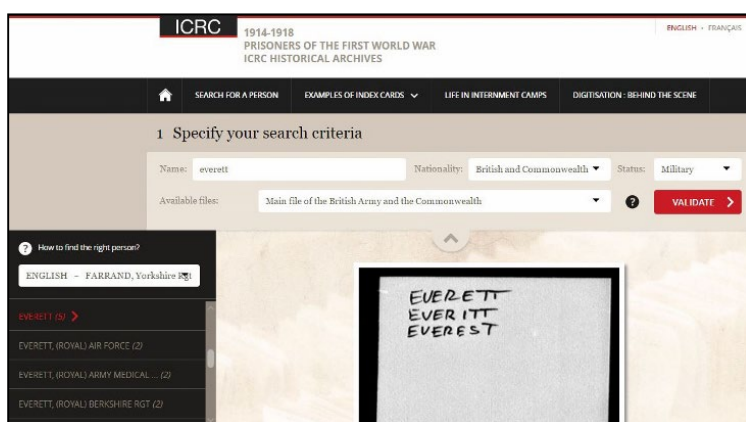
Researching a World War I Prisoner of War

Since I began working on the WWI Soldiers' Memorial at SPRA, my list of frequently used online sources has grown from about two to more than thirty. There are so many incredible websites pertaining to Canadian soldiers in the First World War. One of my latest and most exciting discoveries is the [ICRC \(International Committee of the Red Cross\) Prisoners of the First World War archives](#).

I stumbled across this site while researching Private Robert Last Everett, a soldier who settled near Woking after the war. In Pte. Everett's digitized service file (found online at Library & Archives Canada) there was mention of him being captured by the Germans, and I thought it would be neat to see those records and track his journey from camp to camp. I googled something along the lines of "WWI POW Records" and voila, there it was. I could have jumped for joy.

The website is fairly simple and straightforward, although the arrangement used to display the results can be a little confusing at first. There's a search bar right on the home page where you can type in the surname of the POW you're searching for, or you can click "Search for a Person" on the menu at the top and then enter the name (both methods take you to the same place and give you the same results). Be sure to search by surname

only. If the POW you are searching for was a soldier in a non-Commonwealth army, change the option in the Nationality tab. Change it to the country in whose army the soldier served, not where he was born. In the Status tab, you will find only two choices: Military or Civilian. The options in the last tab (Available Files) change, depending on what nationality you chose. This final tab helps you to narrow down the results if you know in what country your POW was held.



Now that you've searched, it's time to filter through the results. It really helps if you know what unit the POW was a part of. I would also suggest clicking on the little question mark labelled "How to find the right person." It'll give you a number of useful tips and tricks for finding the right POW. As you scroll through the results on the left hand side, you'll see that the soldiers are organized by unit, but

luckily the Canadians are in their own little category, so in the case of Pte. Everett, I didn't even have to know the name of his unit. I clicked on "EVERETT, CANADIANS (4)" and it took me to the index cards for

