

Name: Brown, John

Rank: Cpl

Service Number: 54333



John Brown served in the 18th Btn from 30 Jan 1915. His mother was a widow with two other sons in service, and since they ran a farm, it was by his mother's permission that he was allowed to join up. He became a machine gunner and served with the 4th Brigade Canadian Machine Gun Corps. He was killed in action during the attack on Vimy Ridge 9th of April 1917. His memory is continued on the Vimy Memorial. He also appears on the Strathroy cenotaph.

CWGC

Name: BROWN, JOHN Initials: J Nationality: Canadian Rank: Corporal Regiment/Service: Canadian Machine Gun Corps Unit Text: 4th Coy. Age: 21 Date of Death: **09/04/1917** Service No: 54333 Additional information: Son of Mrs. E. C. Brown, of Mount Brydges, Ontario, and the late Robert Brown. Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead Memorial: [VIMY MEMORIAL](#)

SERVICE RECORD

Date	Particulars
30 Jan 1915	Enlists at Strathroy ON in the 33 rd Battalion CEF Occupation: Farmer, Born: 18 Dec 1895 at Mount Brydges ON, single, no previous military experience, Medically cleared, 5'10" 158 lbs, dark complexion, brown eyes, light brown hair, Religion: Wesleyan
30 Jan 1915	Note – "I hereby certify that I am willing to allow my son John Brown to enlist in the 33 rd Battalion for overseas service. Signed Mrs. Robert Brown"
14 Apr 1915	Transferred from 33 rd Btn and posted to "A" Company London Ont.
18 Apr 1915	Sailed from Halifax aboard the S.S. Grampian
29 Apr 1915	Arrives via S.S. Grampian in England
20 May 1915	German measles. Moore Barracks Shorncliffe Kent
4 Aug 1915	Forfeits 3 days pay AWL (<i>Absent Without Leave</i>)
16 Sept 1915	Embarked for France from Folkestone England. Disembarked in France with the 18 th Battalion
25 Sept 1915	Transferred to Machine Gun Company 4 th Brigade TOS (<i>Taken on Strength</i>) 26 Dec 1915
25 May 1916	Contusion to left leg - 5 th Canadian Field Ambulance
29 May 1916	Discharged to duty
23 Nov 1916	Admitted no 18 General Field Hospital – PUO (Pyrexia of Unknown Origin)
4 Jan 1917	Appointed Lance Corporal
13 Jan 1917	Rejoined unit
1 Mar 1917	Promoted Corporal
9 Apr 1917	Killed in Action (This is the date of the attack on Vimy Ridge)
6 Mar 1922	Medal Card – M & D, P&S, Scroll and plaque, Memorial Cross to Mother Mrs. Robert Brown RR#2 Mount Brydges ON,

duplicate

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 784

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? *John Brown*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Caradoc, Ont*
- What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Mrs Robert Brown*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Hmk Brydges over R.R. No 2*
5. What is the date of your birth? *Dec 18th 1895*
6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Farmer*
7. Are you married? *no*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *no*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *no*
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *yes*

John Brown (Signature of Man).
J. S. Merish (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John Brown*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *Jan 30th* 1914. *John Brown* (Signature of Recruit)
J. S. Merish (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John Brown*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *Jan 30* 1914. *John Brown* (Signature of Recruit)
J. S. Merish (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
 The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
 I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Stratford* this *30* day of *January* 1914.
J. M. Draper (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.
B. P. Brown Lt. Col. (Approving Officer)

Description of John Brown on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 19 years 1 months.
 (To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Height 5 ft 10 ins.

Chest measure and girth { Girth when fully expanded 38 ins.
 Range of expansion 5 ins.

Complexion dark brown

Eyes brown

Hair light brown

Religious denominations { Church of England
 Presbyterian
 Wesleyan yes
 Baptist or Congregationalist
 Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated.)
 Roman Catholic
 Jewish

RECEIVED
 1914
 26th REGT
 MEDICAL OFFICER

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him*.....for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date Jan 30th 1914 Ab. Berdan Jr
 Place Strathroy 26th Regt
 Medical Officer.

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."
 Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

.....

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

.....having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

.....(Signature of Officer)

Date.....1914.

MOUNT CARMEL.

Sad news was received on Sunday last by Mrs. Brown that her son, John, had been killed in action somewhere in France on April 9th after being at the front for two and a half years. Deceased was among the first of the Canadian boys to answer the call. He was a fire-type of young manhood, a good soldier and had been promoted some time ago from the ranks as a result of his valor. He was well-known in this community, and highly respected. Mrs. Brown is a widow and has two other sons in the war. Robt. who enlisted in the North West, is slowly recovering from the effects of a gas attack and Leonard is with the Middlesex boys, who were recently reported in the thick of the fighting.

MOUNT CARMEL

Corporal John Brown was among the first from this neighborhood to hear the call to arms. To him it was no open road to pleasure and a good time. He felt that duty demanded that he offer his life to his country as an aid to stem the tide of Prussianism that would overwhelm, if it could, the liberties of our country and the world. He crossed the sea with the 18th Battalion in the fall of 1915 and since that time, has been almost continuously in the trenches. In the attack on Vimy Ridge, April 9th, he fell. On Sunday, May 13th, an appropriate memorial service was held in the Mt. Carmel Methodist church. The service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Reycraft who chose as his text, the words: "And he said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." No sacrifice, said Mr. Reycraft, ever went unnoticed either for the one who made it or for those who suffer with them. He commended highly those who so freely sacrificed all their prospects in order to defend their country. Those who talk so glibly about the necessity of increased food production, demanding that we give up the sanctity of our Sabbath, came in for a scathing denunciation. The speaker characterized them as "Sham patriots who were afraid to soil their hands." The large attendance testified to the high esteem in which Corp. Brown was held in his home neighborhood. The sympathy of all his friends goes out to his mother, who in the midst of her great sorrow still has the assurance that he passed beyond nobly "doing his bit."