

William E. Foxen

Service Number: 18411

Rank: Lieutenant

Branch: 1st, 10th, 13th, 21st and 50th Batallion

Years Served: 1915 - 1918

Summary: William E. Foxen signed his attestation papers at Sling Plantation in England on the 20th of October 1914. He rose through the ranks to Temporary Ltn on 3 Aug 1918. He had previously been wounded and suffered from a string of illnesses connected with his duties. On the first of November 1918 near Valenciennes, he was in charge of a platoon whose task it was to clear up a difficult area.

Although wounded early in the operation, he remained in charge, directing his men and setting a magnificent example of courage. When the officers commanding the platoon became casualties, he took charge, led the men forward to their companies, and, returning successfully accomplished his own task in spite of intense suffering from his wounds and heavy resistance. For this action he was awarded the Military Cross. He died of his wounds 13 Nov 1918 and is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery. His mother lived in Strathroy.

Name: William E. Foxen

Birth Date: June 24, 1893

Relatives: Mother - Helen Mary Foxen

Address: Strathroy, ON

Attestation Date: October 20, 1914

Death Date: November 13, 1918

Burial Site: Etaples Military Cemetery





<i>Date</i>	<i>Particulars</i>
	Card – Lieut. Foxen, William E, Theatre of War France, Date of Service – 22 Sept 1914, 2 May 1915, 13 Nov 1918, Latest address (M) Mrs. Helen Mary Foxen, Box 105, Strathroy ON Stamped "D"
20 Oct 1914	Stenographer attested in 9 th Btn at Sling Plantation (?), date of birth 24 Jun 1893, no previous military experience, Medical 5'10" fair complexion, Blue eyes, light brown hair, Church of England, scar on right leg below knee.
6 Jan 1915	Medical 5' 10 ½ " 150 lbs, scar on left abdomen, scar on rt leg below knee,
2 May 1915	Proceeds to France on Draft to 13 th Btn
5 May 1915	Promoted Corporal
20 May 1915	#3 Field Ambulance – Shock
10 Jun 1915	Suffering from shock
25 Aug 1915	No 2 Canadian Field Ambulance – Myopia
31 Aug 1915	No 4 Stationary hospital –Def of Vision
5 Sept 1915	Base Depot
16 Sept 1915	To Base pay Office Rouen – attached as a clerk on probation
16 Dec 1915	Appointed acting Sergeant France
25 Jan 1916	No 8 General Hospital Rouen – NYD <i>(Not yet determined)</i>

25 Jan 1916	Admitted no 8 General Hospital
2 Feb 1916	Transferred to No 12 General Hospital Rouen –neurasthenia
2 Feb 1916	Transferred to 12 General hospital – neurasthenia
5 Feb 1916	Discharged to duty NAD
5 Feb 1916	Discharged to duty
26 Feb 1916	Transferred to 1 st Btn Base Co Didworth
1 Mar 1916	Confirmed Sergeant
24 Jan 1917	Attached to GHQ (<i>General Head Quarters</i>) Cadet School Blendecques
9 Apr 1917	To be temporary Lieutenant and posted to 10 th Btn in the field London Gazette 30152 27 June 1917
9 Apr 1917	Granted commission as Temp Lieut in the field 10 th Btn
30 Apr 1917	Admitted No 14 General Hospital Boulogne Gun shot wound to neck , slight
1 May 1917	Wounded and detached to Alata RD
2 May 1917	Admitted No 4 London General Hospital GSW to neck, slight and shock.
9 May 1917	Admitted No 4 London General hospital
16 May 1917	Medical board – wound on left side of back of neck is healed, chief complaint now is headache, numb sensation left side of head and nervousness with insomnia due to concussion of being buried. This officer is pale and nervous still after one month's convalescence. He complains of insomnia. Myopia attributes to blow he received in France.
17 May 1917	Discharged
21 May 1917	Transferred to Alberta Reg Depot
18 Jun 1917	SOS to Canadian Forestry Corps
19 Jun 1917	To be L Lieut CFC form a Canadian Infantry Battalion
1 Sept 1917	Medical board – lack of concentration, severe headaches, inability to work with any energy, considered worn out and requires a complete change and rest.
2 Nov 1917	Medical board – is troubled with insomnia, hands are very damp, no tremor of hands, knee jerks no increased. Gets headaches when excited. Soft but physically fit. Detailed medical notes on file.
30 Nov 1917	SOS in posting to Dist 54 (Coy 105) as Adjt.
22 Mar 1918	Admitted No 10 Canadian General Hospital Brighton – Neurasthenia
18 Apr 1918	Admitted Canadian Convalescent Officers Hospital Mattock Bath
21 Apr 1918	TOS from Dist 54 CFC
22 Apr 1918	Medical Board – Neurasthenia due to General Service conditions, no physical disability at present other than congenital myopia. Fit for General service.
29 Apr 1918	Discharged
13 July 1918	SOS on posting to Dist 53 CFC
3 Aug 1918	To be Temp Lieutenant Alat Regt from CFC
13 Aug 1918	Attached 21 st Btn from CFC
26 Sept 1918	Proceeded overseas for service with 50 th Btn
27 Sept 1918	TOS 50 th Btn
28 Sept 1918	TOS CCRC
2 Oct 1918	Rejoined the 50 th Btn
1 Nov 1918	Gunshot wound to left foot
2 Nov 1918	Reported wounded (gas)
6 Nov 1918	Admitted 24 General hospital GSW left foot
6 Nov 1918	Gun Shot wound to neck slight 2 May 1917
7 Nov 1918	Report WDD gas Nov 2 nd 1918
8 Nov 1918	Admitted (?) General Hospital Etaples Dangerously ill Gun shot wound left foot
9 Nov 1918	Gun Shot wound left foot
10 Nov 1918	Dangerously ill 24 General Hosp Etaples
13 Nov 1918	Died of wounds received in Action (mention of influenza)
2 Apr 1919	Awarded the Military Cross London Gazette 31266 and 31680
5 Jul 1920	Medal Card – eligible for 1914-15 Star, 50 th Btn Military Cross noted Medals and decorations to Mrs Helen Mary Foxen (mother, Box 105 , Strathroy, ON Plaque and scroll to mother as above Memorial Cross to mother as above.

Attestation Paper:

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 18411

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? *William E. Foxen*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *London, England*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Mrs. John Foxen*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *16, Elgar Rd. Waltham, Wye, London, England*
 5. What is the date of your birth? *24 June 1893*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Photographer*
 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*
 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*
- William E. Foxen* (Signature of Man).
Frank Parker (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *William E. Foxen*, 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 *Oct 20* 1914. *William E. Foxen* (Signature of Recruit)
Frank Parker (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *William E. Foxen*, 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 *Oct 20* 1914. *William E. Foxen* (Signature of Recruit)
Frank Parker (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 *Out Pass Camp* this *20* day of *October* 1914.

Deputy Justice (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

W. H. Rogers (Approving Officer)

Description of <u>W. E. Foxon</u> on Enlistment.	
Apparent Age, <u>27</u> years.....months.	Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.
<small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small>	
Height <u>5</u> ft. <u>10</u> ins.	<i>Scars on right leg from knee.</i>
Girth when fully expanded <u>36</u> ins.	
Range of expansion <u>38</u> ins.	
Complexion <u>Fair</u>	
Eyes <u>Blue</u>	
Hair <u>Light Brown</u>	
Religious denomination.	
Church of England <u>Yes</u>	
Presbyterian	
Baptist or Congregationalist	
Other Protestants (specification to be stated)	
Roman Catholic	
Jewish	

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 Fit for the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force.

Date Sept 28 1914. *Edith J. Lupton, M.D.*
W. E. Foxon
 Place Windsor, Ontario Medical Officer.

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer (Signature) certify, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will insert also below the name of the officer.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

William E. Foxon 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.

W. E. Foxon (Signature of Officer)

Date Oct 20 1914.

Casualty Form:

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 10 DECEMBER, 1919. 15383

Military Cross

T./Lt. William Eric Foxen, 50th Bn. Can.

Infy., Alberta R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in front of Valenciennes, on 1st November, 1918. He was in charge of a platoon whose task was to clear up a difficult area.

Although wounded early in the operation, he remained in charge, directing his men, and setting a magnificent example of courage.

When the officers commanding the platoon became casualties, he took charge, led the men forward to their companies, and, returning, successfully accomplished his own task in spite of intense suffering from his wounds, and heavy resistance.

<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=pffww&id=398346&lang=eng>