

John Brown



Service Number: 54333

Rank: Corporal

Branch: 18th Battalion and 4th Brigade

Years Served: 1915 - 1917

Summary: 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.

BIO

Name: John Brown

Birth Date: December 18, 1895

Relatives: Father - Robert Brown. Mother - E. C. Brown

Address: RR#2 Mount Brydges, ON

Attestation Date: January 30, 1915

Death Date: April 9, 1917

Memorial Site: Vimy Memorial

<i>Date</i>	<i>Particulars</i>
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,

Attestation Paper:

ATTESTATION PAPER. No. 784
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? John Brown
2. In what Town, Township, Parish, and in what Country were you born? Carleton Place, Ont.
3. What is the name of your father? Mrs Robert Brown
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Mrs Bridges Oak RR. No 2
5. What is the date of your birth? Dec 18th 1894
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 the Military Force? No
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
12. Are you willing to be attached to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force? Yes

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-Sea 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 1916 John Brown (Signature of Recruit)
J. M. Munn (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 so 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 sent over me. So help me God.

Date Jan 30th 1916 John Brown (Signature of Recruit)
J. M. Munn (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was questioned 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 required, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Strathroy on the 30th day of January 1916.

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

B. C. Brown L. Col. (Attesting 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.)

Height 5' 10" ins.

Weight when fully developed 135 lbs.

Range of expansion 4" ins.

Complexion Dark

Eyes Brown

Hair Light Brown

Religion Church of England

Previous service Yes

Widow Yes

Parents or Congregationalist

Other Protestant

Communication to be made

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 Jan 30th 1916 B. C. Brown L. Col. (Attesting Officer)
Strathroy 264 Ruff (Medical Officer)

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 1916

Other Documentation:

The Age May 3 1917

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 fine 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."