

James Neil McGeary

Service Number: 802935

Rank: Private

Branch: 134th and 4th Battalion

Years Served: 1916 - 1918

Summary: Private James Neil McGeary 802935 was a hardware clerk in Strathroy who attested in the 135th Btn on the 9th of Feb 1916. After an attack of appendicitis and some surgery he earned a Good Conduct Badge. On the 3rd of March 1918, he joined the 4th Btn in the field. He was instantly killed by an enemy shell while his company was advancing to the Canal du Nord on the 3rd Sept 1918. He is remembered on the Vimy Memorial.

Name: James Neil McGeary

Birth Date: January 12, 1891

Relatives: Mother - Isabella McGeary. Father - James W. McGeary

Address: Strathroy, ON

Attestation Date: February 9, 1916

Death Date: September 3, 1918

Memorial Site: Vimy Memorial

McGEARY—Killed in action "Somewhere in France," on Sept. 3, Private James Neil McGeary, only son of James McGeary, of Strathroy.

—The townspeople were filled with hope that Pte. James N. McGeary and Pte. Oscar Davis might not have been killed as reported last week, when the official casualty list, appearing in the newspapers on Friday night, gave both their names in the list of wounded. Telegrams were immediately sent to Ottawa by D. C. Ross, M. P., inquiring about the mistake, and memorial services which were to have been held in local churches were postponed. The reply came Sunday night, however, confirming the report that both boys had been killed in action.

—Mr. and Mrs. James N. McGeary, Victoria Street, received word Tuesday that their only son, Pte. James N. McGeary, was killed in action on Sept. 3. Pte. McGeary was born in Metcalfe Township, near Napier, and came with his parents to Strathroy nine years ago. He was employed at the hardware store of B. O. Parker & Co., before enlisting for overseas service with the Middlesex Battalion. He leaves eight sisters: Mrs. George Glendenning, Toronto; Mrs. A. D. McLean, Ailsa Craig; Mrs. Lanz, at home; Miss Kathleen, at home; Mrs. Dr. Armstrong, Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. H. M. Anderson, town; Miss Winnie, of Newmarket, and Miss Viola, of Tavistock. Pte. McGeary was one of Strathroy's most popular young men.



Date	Particulars
9 Feb 1916	Card- 802935 Pte McGeary, James Neil, Unit- 4 th Btn , Theatre - France, Date of Service 28 Feb 1918, Latest Address- Mrs. Isabella McGeary (mother) Strathroy ON Attested 135 th Btn at Strathroy ON, born 12 Jan 1891 hardware Clerk , no previous military experience, Medical 5' 6" 131 lbs, dark complexion grey eyes, Black hair, Presbyterian, medical clear.
22 Aug 1916	Embarked Halifax Canada for England aboard SS Olympic
30 Aug 1916	Arrived Liverpool England
15 Oct 1916	Transferred to 134 th Btn Witley
22 Jan 1917	Military Hospital Bramshott cause not yet determined
10 Mar 1917	To Summerden Convalescent hospital Eastborne –appendicitis
12 May 1917	Discharged
9 Feb 1918	Granted good conduct badge Witley
3 Mar 1918	Joined 4 th Btn in the field
3 Sept 1918	Killed in Action
12 Oct 1921	Circumstances of Death – “ While with his Company advancing towards the Canal du Nord , he was instantly killed by the explosion of an enemy shell” Location – attack from Buissy Switch to Sains-les- Marquion Medal Card – Medals and Decorations to mother Mrs. Isabella McGeary, Strathroy ON, P&S- Father , as above Memorial Cross – mother as above Not eligible for 14-15 Star,

Attestation Paper:

ATTESTATION - PAPER.

No. 812935

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your surname? *McGeary*
- 1a. What are your Christian names? *James Neil*
- 1b. What is your present address? *Strathroy Ont*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Windsor Ont*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *James R. McGeary*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Strathroy Ont Canada*
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Father*
5. What is the date of your birth? *12th Jan 1891*
6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Hardware Clerk*
7. Are you married? *no*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *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*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *James Neil McGeary*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they 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 *Feb 9* 1916 *James R. McGeary* (Signature of Recruit)
G. B. Ashwell Clerk (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *James Neil McGeary*, 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 *Feb 9* 1916 *James R. McGeary* (Signature of Recruit)
G. B. Ashwell Clerk (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 required to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Strathroy* this *9th* day of *February* 1916

G. B. Ashwell Clerk (Signature of Justice)

Description of James Neil McLeary on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 25 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, when the same is acknowledged to any previous service, attach a note to this effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.

Height 5 ft. 6 ins.

Girth when fully expanded 33 1/2 ins.
Range of expansion 31 ins.

Complexion Dark

Eyes Grey

Hair Black

Church of England

Presbyterian ☒

Methodist

Baptist or Congregationalist

Roman Catholic

Jewish

Other denominations (denominations to be stated)

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-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date February 4th 1916

Place Shahray W. L. Berdan
Lt Col. Russ
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 accepted, and will briefly state below the cause of rejection:—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

James Neil McLeary 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.

B. Robertson (Signature of Officer)

Date 14-2- 1916.

Casualty Form:

Reg. No 802935

Unit 134th Battrn.

Next of Kin Canada

Date	Movement	Place	Casualty	List No.	Notified N/K O.	W.O. List
1917						
22-1.	Wil Hosp. B'shott.		WYD	22		
10-3-17	Dr. Summerdown Bow. & Boune		appendicitis	31		
10-5	Can. Mil. Hos. Eastbourne		do.	42		
12-5	Discharged		do.	42		

Name *MC GEAR Y*

James Neil
Rank Plt

25. M. 7676

Reg. No. 802935

Unit 4th Bn

Next of Kin James M. Geary, Strathroy, Ont. Canada

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