

## VETERAN OF THE WEEK 16

(August 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

### **252078 Private Edgar Sproule Garland**

209<sup>th</sup> “Swift Current” Battalion & 49<sup>th</sup> (Alberta Regiment) Battalion

Canadian Expeditionary Force

First World War



252078 Private Edgar Sproule Garland of Success, Saskatchewan was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1897 in Pinkerton, Ontario to Mr. Samuel and Mrs. Fanny Elizabeth Garland. Edgar worked as a salesman before the war. As he was unmarried at the time of his enlistment, he listed his next of kin as his mother. Private Garland enlisted in the 209<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion aka the 209<sup>th</sup> “Swift Current” Battalion on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1916 in Swift Current, SK at the age of 19 years. He was described as being 5 foot 8 inches tall with a fair complexion, brown eyes and brown hair.

While at Camp Hughes training with his unit he was admitted to the base hospital with appendicitis. He would undergo an appendectomy and spend eight days in the hospital. On the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October/ morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1916 he set sail with the rest of the 209<sup>th</sup> for England. Sailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Liverpool via the S.S. Caronia. Like the rest of the men of the 209<sup>th</sup> Pte. Garland upon arrival in England on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November that same year was transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Reserve battalion for quarters, rations and discipline.

While in England Pte. Garland found himself once again in the hospital, this time with a case of mumps and he would spend 20 days in hospital. Once he had recovered from the mumps Pte. Garland then was transferred to the 49<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1917. He would then proceed overseas to France on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April that same year. He would join up with his unit the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the field on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1917. Pte. Garland would be severely wounded via shrapnel from an enemy shell during operations on the night of 8 June 1917 at the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

His wounds were tended to and he was taken to Casualty Clearing Station No. 6 where unfortunately Private Edgar Sproule Garland died of wounds the following day (9 June 1917) at the young age of 20 years. He would be buried in Plot: III, Row: C, Grave: 8 in Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension. Located 11 kms southwest of Bethune and 6 kms east of Bruay, at Pas-de-Calais, France. He is commemorated on page 241 of the First World War Book of Remembrance located in the Peace Tower, part of the parliament building in Ottawa.

Pte. Garland would posthumously be awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In addition to those medals, his mother Fanny was awarded the Memorial Cross aka the Silver Cross in recognition of his sacrifice to his country. This week we honour the service and sacrifice of 252078 Private Edgar Sproule Garland of Success, Saskatchewan, who gave his life for king and country at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Thank you, Private Garland, for your service.

Lest We Forget