

## VETERAN OF THE WEEK 26

(17-23 October, 2022)

Captain David Meikle

5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Saskatchewan Regiment)

Canadian Expeditionary Force

First World War



Photo Courtesy of CVWM & Operation Picture Me Project

Cpt. David Meikle of Pennant, Saskatchewan was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1883 in “The Pines”, Ayr, Ayrshire, Scotland to Mr. and Mrs. David Meikle. He worked as a general merchant and was a member of the Canadian Militia, having served three years in the 27<sup>th</sup> Light Horse. He was second in command of the Swift Current squadron of the 27<sup>th</sup> Light Horse when the unit left Swift Current for Camp Valcartier, Quebec. It was at Camp Valcartier on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1914 he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Saskatchewan Regiment). Cpt. Meikle was described as being five foot nine and a half inches tall, with blue eyes and dark hair. He was married at the time of his enlistment as his next of kin was his wife Elsie Gertrude Meikle.

Cpt. Meikle and the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion sailed overseas aboard the S.S. Lapland on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1914. He was Wounded in Action on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 1915 via a gunshot wound to his hand. His wound was treated at No. 3 General Hospital Le Treport. He was discharged to duty on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April that same year. Capt. Meikle was the first man from the Swift Current area to be wounded during the First World War. Unfortunately, Capt. Meikle was Killed in Action shortly after having returned to duty as he was Killed in Action on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1915 while fighting at the Battle of Festubert. He was 31 years old.

While serving in France Capt. Meikle wrote several letters to the local newspaper, the Swift Current Sun in which he detailed the health and the morale level of the Swift Current men serving there. The last letter he wrote to the sun was about the bravery of the Swift Current men who fought at the Battle of St. Julien. The letter arrived few days after the Captain had been killed. Capt. David Meikle is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial located north of Arras in Pas-de Calais, France as he has no known grave.

In addition to being commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, he is commemorated on page twenty-eight of the First World War Book of Remembrance. He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In addition to his medals his widow Elsie was awarded his memorial plaque and scroll and his cross of sacrifice. His widow Elsie later remarried as Mrs. McInnes and moved Markinch, Saskatchewan. She would again move to Vancouver, BC. This week we honour the service and sacrifice of Captain David Meikle of Pennant, Saskatchewan.

Lest We Forget.