

VETERAN OF THE WEEK

28 September – 4 October, 2025

252538 Private Andrew Hay

209th & 49th Overseas Battalions

First World War



Photo: Private Andrew Hay 209th & 49th Battalions.

Born in Dominion City Manitoba, but living and farming at Webb, Andrew Hay enlisted with the 209th “Swift Current” Battalion on the 20th of March, 1916. He underwent his basic training in Swift Current and his advanced training at Camp Hughes. Alongside his battalion, Andrew sailed across the Atlantic aboard the S.S. Caronia. After disembarking at Liverpool, Andrew and the 209th encamped at St. Martin Plain. Following the disbandment of the 209th that December, he was transferred to the 9th Reserve Battalion. He remained with that unit until the 13th of April 1917, when he was slated to proceed overseas as a reinforcement for the 49th Battalion. The following day he arrived in France and was soon posted to No. 3 Canadian Entrenching Battalion. While with the No. 3 Canadian Entrenching Battalion, he worked on various manual labour tasks and in mid June he met up with the 49th Battalion in the field. During the Battle of Passchendaele (30 October 1917), Andrew suffered a fairly serious shrapnel wound to his right arm, resulting in a fracture to his humerus. Due to the severity of his wounds, Andrew was invalided back to the U.K. for further treatment. After having recovered from his wound, he was posted to the No. 21 Reserve Battalion and remained in England until late 1918 when he was repatriated to Canada. Andrew Hay was discharged from the Canadian Militia on the 15th of January 1919, via reason of demobilization. Branch 56 is very grateful that Andrew Hay’s uniform is part of our museum’s collection.