

*No Picture
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William John French
Canadian Expeditionary Force
Royal Canadian Engineers
World War I
Regimental No. 506517

Born: 29 Jul 1896

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: Esau and Sarah French

William enlisted in the 25th draft of the Royal Canadian Engineers and subsequently the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 1 Dec 1916. He enlisted at St. Jean, P.Q. (St. Johns P.Q. is written on the official document in error).

The information contained in Williams' official attestation papers provides the following description of him. William stood 5 ft. 6 inches tall, weighed 145 lbs, had dark brown hair with hazel eyes. He was 20 years old, an electrician by trade, Church of England and single at the time. There is a

notation that he had 10 ½ months of previous service in the RCE (Royal Canadian Engineers).

William's service would span 2 years 2 months from enlistment (1 Dec 1916) to discharge (22 Jan 1919).

William's official service record contains the following entries:

1. He was assigned to the 25th draft of the Canadian Engineers and then as part of the Canadian Contingent Expeditionary Force.
2. 5 May 1917 Embarked Canada aboard the S/S Justicia
3. Disembarked England 14 May 1917
4. TOS (taken on strength) of the C.E.T.D. (Canadian Engineers Training Depot) from Canada 15 May 1917 (at Crowborough)
5. SOS (struck off strength) back to the CEF (at Seaford)
6. He was twice assigned to the 3rd Field Company of the Canadian Engineers
7. Wounded on 2 Aug 1918, gunshot wounds to leg and hand.
8. He was officially part of the CEF for seven-month period in France
9. Part of the 3rd field Co. of the Canadian Engineers Battalion for nine months.
10. He suffered a gunshot wound to his leg (calf area) as well as a wound to his right-hand 2 Aug 1918.
11. He recovered from both injuries but was then back in hospital on 27 Jan 18 with "Trench Fever"
12. Transferred back to Halifax, Nova Scotia aboard the S/S Regina on 20 Dec 1918

13. Discharged from service on 22 Jan 1919.

Following his discharge, there is no record of him found in Newfoundland official documents. He does, however, turn up in the 1940 US census. He is living in Brockton, Plymouth, Massachusetts. He is now 43 and working as a salesman. He has become a naturalized American citizen. He is married to Mildred, a lady from the area, who is 45 and she is working as a stenographer.

William passed away in 1978 at the age of 81 and Mildred in 1987 at 94. They are buried in Colebrook Cemetery, Whitman, Plymouth County, Massachusetts.