

Corporal Lorne Edward Brown

Regimental number: 26062

14th Battalion, Canadian Infantry

born: 14 July 1896 - died: 26 September 1918

Corporal Lorne Edward Brown was born on 14 July 1896 in Victoria, Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada, the son of Robert Brown and his wife, the former Isabella Adams.¹ Both his parents were born in Ontario – his father in Port Hope and his mother in Rodden – in 1860.² They married in Lindsay, Ontario on 27 February 1885.³ Robert was a farmer. They went on to have at least ten children: Florence Mary (born in May 1886),⁴ Mildred Elora (born in January 1889),⁵ William Albert (born in January 1891),⁶ Arnold F. (born in December 1893),⁷ Percy Johnston (born in April 1894),⁸ an unnamed son (born in July 1896),⁹ Lorne, Annie Alberta (born in August 1899),¹⁰ Harold Newton (born in July 1903)¹¹ and Robert Theron (born in September 1905).¹²

The family lived for at least several decades in Ops, near Lindsay, where Robert was a farmer. In 1911, Lorne was living with his parents in Ops and three younger siblings.¹³ His four older siblings were living in Lindsay with his eldest sister, Mary,¹⁴ who had married Frederick Charles Graham in 1907.¹⁵

Lorne enlisted in the army as soon as the war broke out. He joined the 2nd Battalion of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in Valcartier, Quebec on 22 September 1914, when he was just 18 years old.¹⁶ He was 5' 8" tall, had a dark complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair. He was a locomotive fireman. He had previously served for a year in the military.

He transferred to the 14th Battalion and left for England in October 1914. In January 1915, he was admitted to hospital with gonorrhoea and was discharged later that month. He joined the Front in France in February 1915. Soon after joining the Front, he had a number of disciplinary incidents, including hesitating to obey an order, being absent without leave and being improperly dressed, for which he received a Field Punishment.¹⁷

After joining the Front, he spent nearly a year in hospital. He first reported sick on 28 November 1916 at Vimy Ridge and was admitted to the 4th General Canadian Hospital in Camiers, France, with pneumonia. He was transferred in December to the Keighley War Hospital in Yorkshire with pleurisy. Two months later he was transferred to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital in Monks Horton in Kent, where he stayed until May 1917. In January 1918, he was once again in hospital; this time with ulcers on his left leg. He was sent first to the Bramshott Canadian Hospital in Hampshire. In February, he was discharged to the Canadian Convalescent Depot. He returned to France in May and joined his unit in early June. He survived almost four months before being injured again. This time he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his left arm, abdomen and penetrating his back.¹⁸ He also had a fractured left leg. He died the same day and was buried the following day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 11, Plot 7, Row A) with the chaplain A. D. Reid presiding.

His mother was his next-of-kin and was notified of his death. She was living at 495 Ossington Avenue in Toronto. In November 1917, he had signed a will leaving all his possessions to his mother.¹⁹ In August 1930, when his mother was contacted about his memorial cross, she was living at 80 Howard Street in Toronto.

Lorne was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²⁰ He was also awarded the Military Medal, which was given to Other Ranks for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land.

Lorne's brother, Percy, also served in the Great War. He was a fireman when he enlisted in February 1915 in Lindsay. He served as a Private in the 39th, 18th and 36th Battalions before being discharged in May 1916. He was with the 18th Battalion when he served on the Front from September 1915 to January 1916. He was injured in October 1915 when a shell burst and a piece entered his left leg above his ankle. He was eventually evacuated to England then to Canada, where he was in the "Elmhurst" Convalescent Home in Kingston, Ontario. He was declared unfit for service when he was diagnosed with endocarditis and a shrapnel wound to his left leg. He also had shortness of breath resulting from gas poisoning. After the war, he moved to Buffalo, New York, with his wife, Gladys, and his two children, Jack A. and Eleanor G., probably in about 1925.²¹ It is not known if any of Lorne's other brothers served in the Great War.

His sister, Mildred, married William McCarthy in 1915²² and later moved to the United States.²³ In 1921, his brother, William, was married and living with his wife, the former Teresa Emma Alldred,²⁴ at 118 Hepbourne Street in Toronto.²⁵ His sister, Annie Alberta, married Daniel William Carmichael in 1924 in York.²⁶

In 1921, Lorne's parents were living on Ossington Avenue with his sister, Annie, and brother, Theron.²⁷ His father, Robert, died in 1928, at the age of 68, in Toronto and was buried in Lindsay.²⁸ His primary cause of death was a fall down the stairs, but he was also suffering from senile mental decay.

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¹ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-19138," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Lorne Edward Brown

² "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Lorne E. Brown, Province: Ontario, District: Victoria (south/sud), District Number: 120, Sub-District: Ops, Sub-District 1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Lorne E.

Brown Number: F-3; "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Robert Brown, Marriage County or District: Victoria

³ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," entry for Robert Brown

⁴ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-19138," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Florence Mary Brown

⁵ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-19138," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Mildren Elora Brown

⁶ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-19138," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Wm Albert Brown

⁷ "1901 Census of Canada," entry for Lorne E. Brown

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-19138," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Brown

¹⁰ "1901 Census of Canada," entry for Lorne E. Brown

¹¹ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-19138," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Harold Newton Brown

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- ¹² "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869-19138," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Robert Theron Brown
- ¹³ "1911 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Lorne Brown, Province: Ontario, District: Victoria, District Number: 129, Sub-District: 43 - Ops, Sub-District Number: 43
- ¹⁴ "1911 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Lorne Brown, Province: Ontario, District: Victoria, District Number: 129, Sub-District: 43 - Ops, Sub-District Number: 43
- ¹⁵ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Florence May Brown, Marriage County or District: Victoria
- ¹⁶ "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 – CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>; accessed 18 December 2015), entry for Lorne Brown, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1168 - 32. Unless otherwise stated, all information about Lorne's military career comes from this record.
- ¹⁷ He received either a Field Punishment No. 1 or No. 2. For No. 1, the convicted man was placed in fetters and handcuffs or similar restraints and attached to a fixed object, such as a gun wheel or a fence post, for up to two hours per day. No. 2. was the same punishment without the soldier being attached. ("Discipline and Punishment," Canadian War Museum (<http://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/life-at-the-front/trench-conditions/discipline-and-punishment/>; accessed 27 December 2015))
- ¹⁸ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 669
- ¹⁹ "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 – CEF," entry for Lorne Brown
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*
- ²¹ "New York, State Census, 1925," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Percy J Brown, Assembly District: 04, House Number: 1396, Line Number: 20, Page Number: 3
- ²² "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 December 2015), entry for Mildred Ethel Brown, Marriage County or District: York
- ²³ Mildred Soc Security application "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Mildred Elora McCarthy, Type of Claim: Original SSN.
- ²⁴ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for William Albert Brown, Marriage County or District: York
- ²⁵ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 March 2015), entry for William Brown, Province or Territory: Ontario, District: Parkdale, District Number: 113, Sub-District: Toronto (City), Sub-District Number: 67, City, Town or Village: Parkdale Toronto
- ²⁶ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 December 2015), entry for Annie Alberta Brown, Marriage County or District: York
- ²⁷ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 March 2015), entry for Robert Brown, Province or Territory: Ontario, District: Toronto West, District Number: 134, Sub-District: Ward 5, Sub-District Number: 71, City, Town or Village: Toronto Ward 5
- ²⁸ "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 17 December 2015), entry for Robert Brown