

**Private Ernest Edward Brown©**  
**Regimental Number: 636290**  
**2nd Canadian Battalion (Eastern Ontario Regiment)**

**born: 6 July 1898 – died: 22 March 1918**

Ernest Edward was born on 6 July 1898 in Hastings, Ontario, to Allen and Mary Brown.<sup>1</sup> Allen had been born about 1861 in Marmora, Ontario, to John and Hannah Brown.<sup>2</sup> Mary had been born on 11 February 1860 in Bedfordshire, England, to George and Susan Hatten,<sup>3</sup> and immigrated to Canada with her family, arriving on 6 June 1870 aboard SS *Austrian*.<sup>4</sup> Allen and Mary married on 26 November 1882 in Stirling Township, Ontario<sup>5</sup> and had 10 children:

- George Arthur, who was born on 26 July 1880 in Madoc, Ontario.<sup>6</sup> George married Mabel Estella Pyear on 18 December 1907,<sup>7</sup> and died at the age of 83 in 1966;<sup>8</sup>
- Beatrice Ethel, who was born on 27 July 1883 in Hastings, Ontario.<sup>9</sup> She married Frank Westfall in Hastings, Ontario on 16 February 1910;<sup>10</sup>
- Florence Arvilla, who was born on 27 October 1885 in Hastings, Ontario.<sup>11</sup> She married William McKim in Hastings on 12 July 1909,<sup>12</sup> but he passed away in 1913. Florence married Luie Isaac Carl on 20 September 1917 and died at the age of 95 on 1 April 1981 in Wainwright, Alberta;<sup>13</sup>
- Nettie May, who was born on 2 December 1887 in Hastings, Ontario;<sup>14</sup>
- Mary Letha, who was born 14 March 1889 in Hastings, Ontario;<sup>15</sup>
- John Allen, who was born 13 April 1891 in Stirling, Hastings County, Ontario.<sup>16</sup> John died at the age of 19 on 7 August 1910 of shock when he was run over by a freight car;<sup>17</sup>
- Ruth Alvina, who was born about 1892 in Hastings, Ontario.<sup>18</sup> Ruth Married Clarence Edward Davidson in Hastings, Ontario, on 8 January 1913;<sup>19</sup>
- Stanley Hartwell, who was born 21 June 1895.<sup>20</sup> Stanley enlisted with the 235th Battalion, CEF, on 1 November 1916. In his Attestation he listed his occupation as blacksmith, and his regimental number was 1027434.<sup>21</sup> Fortunately, Stanley returned from the Great War and married Mary Ina Jones in Hastings, Ontario on 5 February 1921;<sup>22</sup>
- Ernest Edward;
- Albert Perry, who was born 4 May 1900.<sup>23</sup> He married Hazel Aman on 27 August 1921 in Hastings, Ontario.<sup>24</sup>

Ernest (alternately called Ernest or Edward in various documents) enlisted with the 155th Battalion (Quinte) on 12 January 1918. He indicated on his Attestation that he was living in Belleville, Ontario, was a grocery clerk and single. He had served one year with the 15th Regiment. In his military will, he left all his possessions to his father Allen. Ernest embarked from Canada on 18 October 1916 aboard SS *Northland*. He was admitted for a month to the Military Hospital Bramshott, England, on 3 October 1917 suffering from shingles on his arms, legs and head. On 4 January 1918 Ernest was transferred to the 2nd Battalion.<sup>25</sup>

The War Diary for the 2nd Battalion describes the situation Ernest experienced for the first quarter of 1918. It started as more training, but by 16 February the battalion moved to the front. On 20 March, with unsettled weather, the battalion moved from billets and proceeded to Hill 70 Sector. At 5:30 a.m. on 21 March 1918:

...the enemy raided and succeeded in entering our trenches, but was forced to retire

after suffering heavy casualties. The raid was carried out under cover of an intense bombardment, the smoke from which and mist obscuring the vision of the sentries. In comparison, our casualties were slight, being 1 officer wounded (Capt. C.F. Day), 10 O.Rs. killed - 2 O.Rs. subsequently died of wounds [*including Ernest*], 29 O.Rs. wounded and 4 O.Rs. 'missing'. Shelling during the day was more marked than usual, our artillery carried out considerable counter-battery work.

Visibility being very good, our aeroplanes were over the enemy's lines in good numbers. At about 11.30 p.m. 2,000 drums of gas were projected. During the projection considerable increase of artillery fire was put on from our guns. Weather : Very fair.

The following extract from 1st Can. Inf. Bde Orders is given:- "The G.O.C. Brigade desires to extend to the Officers, N.C.Os. and Men of No.2 and 3 Companies, 2nd Canadian Battalion his congratulations and thanks for their gallantry in beating off the enemy's attack this morning. He desires particularly to compliment the Lewis Gunners who in all cases behaved with courage and initiative. The indications are that heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy, who had been made to pay very dearly for his "attack".<sup>26</sup>

Ernest received shrapnel wounds to his arms, legs and head during the attack on 21 March 1918. He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died the next day. He was buried 23 March at Houchin British Cemetery, at Row G, grave 23.<sup>27</sup> The cemetery was opened in March 1918 when the 6th Casualty Clearing Station came to Houchin. From April to September the German advance made Houchin unsafe for hospitals, and the cemetery was used by the 55th (West Lancashire) Division. In September 1918, the 6th Casualty Clearing Station returned to Houchin and was joined by the 15th CCS in October.<sup>28</sup>

Ernest's mother Mary died on 22 April 1911 of the grippe and sepsis from an infection.<sup>29</sup> After the children were independent, Allen was living with his daughter Ruth in Battle River, Alberta.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Edward Ernest Brown

<sup>2</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Allen Brown

<sup>3</sup> "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Mary Hatton, Registration district: Marylebone, Sub-registration district: St John, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 5, Piece: 87, Folio: 5, Page: 9

<sup>4</sup> "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Mary Hatton (*sic*)

<sup>5</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Allen Brown

<sup>6</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for George Arthur Brown

<sup>7</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for George Arthur Brown

<sup>8</sup> "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for George Arthur Brown

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- <sup>9</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Beatrice Ethel Brown
- <sup>10</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Beatrice Ethel Brown
- <sup>11</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Florence Arvilla Brown
- <sup>12</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Florence Arvilla Brown
- <sup>13</sup> "Our Family Family Tree," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Florence Arvilla Brown
- <sup>14</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Nettie Brown
- <sup>15</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Mary L Brown
- <sup>16</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for John Allen Brown
- <sup>17</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869–1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939–1947," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for John Allen Brown
- <sup>18</sup> "1911 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Ruth A Brown, Province: Ontario, District: Hastings West, District number: 80, Sub-district: 22–Sidney, Sub-district number: 22
- <sup>19</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Ruth (illegible) Brown
- <sup>20</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Stanley Nartwell (*sic*) Brown
- <sup>21</sup> "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914–1918," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Stanley Brown
- <sup>22</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Stanley H Brown
- <sup>23</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Albert Perry Brown
- <sup>24</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Albert Perry Brown
- <sup>25</sup> "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 24 February 2017) entry for Ernest Edward Brown, Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1136 - 25, Item number: 68054, Digitized service file - PDF format: B1136-S025
- <sup>26</sup> "2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion War Diary," *Canadian Great War Project* (<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/WarDiaries/diaryDetail.asp?ID=6073>: accessed 23 February 2017)
- <sup>27</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Brown, E. E.
- <sup>28</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 24 February 2017), entry for Brown Ernest Edward, Service No: 636290
- <sup>29</sup> "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869–1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939–1947," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Mary Halton (*sic*) Brown
- <sup>30</sup> "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 25 February 2017), entry for Allen Brown, Province or territory: Alberta, District: Battle River, District number: 1, Sub-district number: 33, City, Town or Village: Gilt Edge