

WW I Casualties of Whitewater Region

Captain William Joseph Egan

William Joseph EGAN, oldest son of **Daniel EGAN** and **Mary Ann DEVINE**, was born on 28 Mar 1881 in Bromley Township. He had 9 siblings and two brothers also served in WWI – Pte. Michael Joseph Egan and Pte. John Francis Egan. He worked on railway construction.¹

Capt. William Joseph Egan enlisted Jan 4, 1917 in Ottawa, as captain at age 35. According to his Attestation papers, William Joseph Egan was described as 5' 8" tall, weighing 180 lbs. Capt. Egan served with 257th Bn, 7th Canadian Railway Troops, CEF.^{2,3} Capt. Egan died 4 months after enlistment on May 4, 1917 in Ypres, age 36, in the field in France^{2,3,4,5}. The circumstances of death states:

*"Killed in Action about 8:30 am on May 4, 1917 whilst proceeding by a short cut along a sunken path by the Yser Canal, in the course of his duties, he was instantly killed by an enemy high-explosive shell which landed close by him, a short distance from the Yser Canal Bridge."*⁶

Capt. Egan was buried at Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Vlamertinghe, Belgium.^{8,9} His sacrifice is also commemorated on the Cobden Legion WWI Honour Roll,¹⁰ the original Cobden Memorial Hall's WWI Plaque and the Bromley Township War Memorial¹¹.

Capt. Egan's medals were sent to Mrs. Winnifred Quinn (his sister). His father received the plaque and scroll provided to fathers of WWI casualties².



Image 1: Capt. W. J. Egan⁷

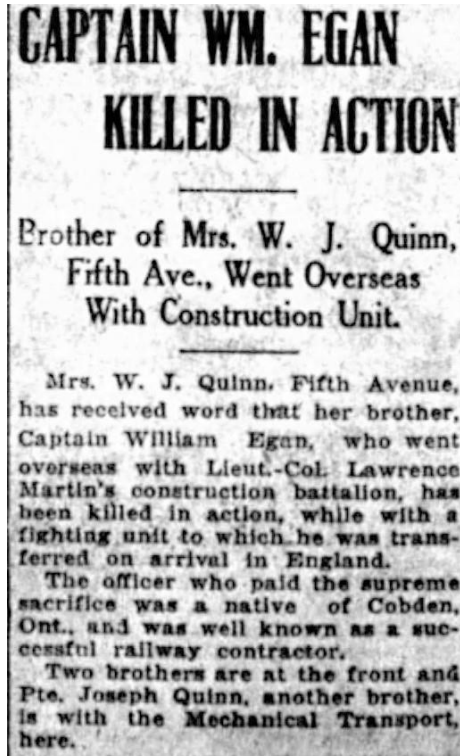


Image 2: The Perth Courier May 25, 1917⁴

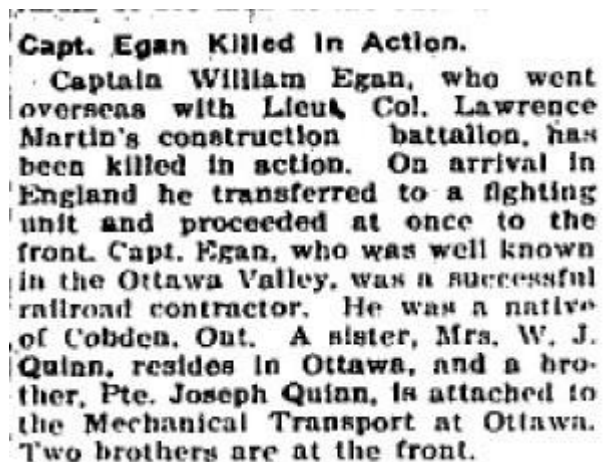


Image 3: Killed in Action⁵

How Capt. Egan Met Death.

Pembroke Observer: Mr. Daniel Egan, of Cobden, has received from Capt. (Rev.) J. R. O'Gorman, who went overseas as chaplain with the 257th Railway Construction battalion, a letter giving particulars regarding the death of his son, the late lamented Capt. W. J. Egan. Father O'Gorman says that he was killed instantly on the morning of May 4th, by a chance shell. He was in a dried-up canal at the time, with another officer (who also died a couple of days later), inspecting a place for a bridge. A piece of shell penetrated his heart, but he was in no way disfigured. The place where the fatality occurred was not considered dangerous—rather otherwise. The two officers were alone at the time, but some artillery men were witnesses of the tragedy. The officer who was with Capt. Egan at the time was a Lieut. McDougall, of British Columbia, but whether he is one of the Ottawa Valley McDougalls is not known. Capt. O'Gorman states in his letter that he reached the point where the battalion was stationed only on the evening of the day Capt. Egan met death, having been with another battalion. He says that "Will was a universal favorite and the whole battalion feels his loss keenly." Capt. O'Gorman pays warm tribute to his Christian qualities and says it was happiness for him to be present at the funeral. All the officers of the battalion and a detachment of the men from his own company were present. Father O'Gorman celebrated the funeral mass in the chapel of a former convent, and then the body was carried to the grave on the shoulders of six captains between drawn-up ranks. "He lies at rest," the letter continues, "in a military cemetery beside a ruined church, among those who like him died at the post of duty." Father O'Gorman expresses to his father and the members of the family the sympathy of himself and the officers of the battalion, saying that he and Col. Martin, having known Will for years and realizing what he was to those at home, must feel his loss for many a day. "He was," the letter continues, "cut off in his prime, but it was a fitting end to a splendid life. He leaves behind him a host of friends who will long remember his beautiful character. And, after all, what do a few years more or less in this world matter compared with the splendid act of self-sacrifice with which his name will ever be associated?"

Image 4: Letter to father¹²

Cpt. William Joseph Egan



Photo courtesy of Marg Liessens
Photo fournie gracieusement par Marg Liessens

Image 5: Grave marker – Capt. W. L. Egan⁸

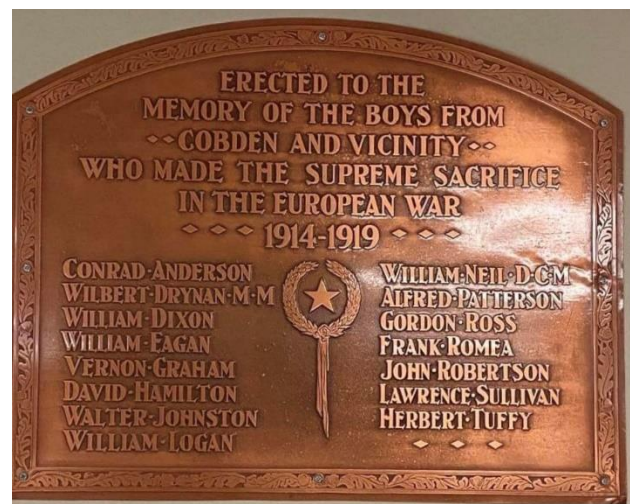


Image 6: Cobden Legion WWI Honour Roll¹⁰

Compiled by Fay Bennett, updated 2023

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1917					
Pte.	Eastman, Clifford John.	38 th Bn.	Bdr.	Edwards, George T.	1 st Siege Bty.
Pte.	Eastman, Gustave Carl.	50 th Bn.	Lieut.	Edwards, Gilbert, M. C.	2 nd Bn.
Pte.	Eastman, Ivar L.	5 th Bn.	Gnr.	Edwards, Glenford.	6 th Bde. C.F.A.
Pte.	Easton, Harry.	28 th Bn.	Dvr.	Edwards, Harry.	5 th Bde. C.F.A.
Pte.	Easton, John.	47 th Bn.	Pte.	Edwards, Howard.	7 th Bn.
Pte.	Eastwood, Arthur Roland.	72 nd Bn.	Pte.	Edwards, John.	14 th Bn.
Pte.	Eastwood, Henry Knight.	116 th Bn.	Pte.	Edwards, Joseph.	4 th C.M.R.
Cpl.	Eastwood, Herbert John.	4 th C.M.R.	Lieut.	Edwards, Joseph Phinsoil.	1 st Fld. Coy.
Pte.	Eastwood, James Herbert.	15 th Bn.	Cpl.	Edwards, Leslie Lewis Cecil.	74 th Bn.
Gnr.	Eaton, Archibald Fenton.	14 th Bde. C.F.A.	Pte.	Edwards, Mervyn.	50 th Bn.
Pte.	Eaton, Arthur.	10 th Bn.	Spr.	Edwards, Robert.	2 nd Tunn. Coy.
Lt. Col.	Eaton, Daniel Isaac Vernon.	8 th Bde. C.F.A.	Pte.	Edwards, Stuart.	10 th Bn.
Pte.	Eaton, Frederick Peter.	1 st Bn.	Pte.	Edwards, Thomas Lenton.	3 rd Bn.
Pte.	Eaton, Harold Walkley.	49 th Bn.	Lt. Sgt.	Edwards, Walter.	19 th Bn.
Lieut.	Eaton, Jaffray.	4 th C.M.R.	Pte.	Edwards, William.	107 th Reqt.
Lieut.	Eaton, John Norris.	43 rd Bn.	Cpl.	Edwards, William James.	1 st Amm. Sub. Pk.
Capt.	Eaton, Leonard Carl.	5 th C.M.R.	Gnr.	Edy, William.	10 th Bde. C.F.A.
Pte.	Eaton, Roy.	19 th Res. Bn.	Pte.	Efemov, Sameon N.	73 rd Bn.
Lieut.	Eaton, Thomas Alden.	3 rd Bn.	Sgt.	Effinger, Stanley Ernest.	M.M. 15 th Bn.
Sgt.	Eaton, Walter Emerson.	M.M. 49 th Bn.	Pte.	Egan, John.	44 th Bn.
Pte.	Eaton, William Thomas.	5 th Bn.	Capt.	Egan, William Joseph.	7 th C.R.T.
Cpl.	Eaves, Thomas.	49 th Bn.	Pte.	Egerton, Albert Edward.	18 th Bn.
Pte.	Ebel, William Robert.	1 st Bn.	Pte.	Egglestone, Charles Alfred.	42 nd Bn.
Pte.	Eccles, Albert Edward.	31 st Bn.	Pte.	Ehrlick, Louis.	50 th Bn.
Pte.	Eccles, Ernest.	73 rd Bn.	Gnr.	Eidt, Wilfred Read.	1 st Siege Bty.
Pte.	Eccles, George.	1 st Bn.	Lieut.	Finarson, John.	1 st C.M.R.
Pte.	Eccles, George Harold.	87 th Bn.	Pte.	Ekins, John Dudley.	8 th M.G. Coy.
Pte.	Eccles, Roy.	4 th C.M.R.	Lieut.	Eland, Reginald George Walton.	31 st Bn.
Pte.	Eckersley, Joseph Edward.	50 th Bn.	Sgt.	Elderkin, Leslie J. M.M.	1 st Bn.
Pte.	Eckford, Hector Henry.	6 th M.G. Coy.	Pte.	Elderkin, St. Clair.	42 nd Bn.
Pte.	Ecobichon, Sidney J.	15 th Bn.	Pte.	Elders, Francis Herbert.	78 th Bn.
Pte.	Eddie, Charles.	43 rd Bn.	Pte.	Elding, Harry.	52 nd Bn.
Pte.	Eden, Albert.	21 st Bn.	Pte.	Elbridge, George.	24 th Bn.
Pte.	Eden, Eric.	42 nd Bn.	Cpl.	Elbridge, James Harvey.	85 th Bn.
Pte.	Edgar, David McKenzie.	46 th Bn.	Sgt.	Elbridge, William George.	D.C.M. 28 th Bn.
Pte.	Edgar, Robert.	7 th Bn.	Pte.	Elément, George.	13 th Bn.
Pte.	Edge, James.	43 rd Bn.	Pte.	Elford, Robert Ernest.	24 th Bn.
Pte.	Edge, Samuel.	42 nd Bn.	Pte.	Elford, Stanley.	3 rd Bn.
Pte.	Edge, Wurtz Alfred.	6 th M.G. Coy.	Lieut.	Elit, Lionel Hyman.	75 th Bn.
Pte.	Edgers, James William.	2 nd Bn.	Pte.	Elkington, Frederick.	58 th Bn.
Lieut.	Edgett, Louis Stanley.	60 th Bn.	Pte.	Elkins, Herbert.	18 th Bn.
Pte.	Edley, Ernest Lloyd.	24 th Bn.	Pte.	Elkins, William Harold.	210 th Bn.
Pte.	Ediss, William George.	78 th Bn.	Pte.	Ellard, Jean.	2 nd C.M.R.
Pte.	Edmed, Alfred.	27 th Bn.	Pte.	Ellarker, Gordon.	149 th Bn.
Pte.	Edmond, Richard Edward.	102 nd Bn.	Pte.	Ellery, Harry Milton.	116 th Bn.
Pte.	Edmonds, John.	3 rd Lab. Bn.	Pte.	Ellingford, Harry.	73 rd Bn.
Pte.	Edmonds, Thomas.	20 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliot, Howard Hollingshead.	58 th Bn.
Sgt.	Edmondson, James Henry.	D.C.M. 72 nd Bn.	Pte.	Elliot, James Harvey.	9 th M.G. Coy.
Lt./Sgt.	Edmunds, Harry James.	4 th C.M.R.	Pte.	Elliott, Archibald Fergus Brown.	2 nd C.M.R.
Sgt.	Edmunds, Roy Albert.	D.C.M. 5 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, Cecil Arthur.	14 th Bn.
Pte.	Edmundson, William.	26 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, Charles.	2 nd Bn.
Pte.	Edsall, Victor Lawrence.	19 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, George.	8 th Bn.
Pte.	Edwards, Albert.	87 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, George Kingston.	14 th M.G. Coy.
Pte.	Edwards, Alfred John.	41 st Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, George Richard.	43 rd Bn.
Lt. Cpl.	Edwards, Andrew David.	13 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, Hamilton Earle.	85 th Bn.
Pte.	Edwards, Arnold.	M.M. 102 nd Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, Harold Alton.	28 th Bn.
Pte.	Edwards, Arthur Leonard.	12 th M.G. Coy.	Pte.	Elliott, James.	15 th M.G. Coy.
Pte.	Edwards, Arthur Stanley.	73 rd Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, John.	2 nd C.M.R.
Pte.	Edwards, Charles.	7 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, John Erwin.	2 nd Fld. Amb.
Pte.	Edwards, Christopher Francis.	5 th Bn.	Lieut.	Elliott, John McCreary.	R.E.C. (L.S.H.)
Pte.	Edwards, Edward Ernest.	10 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, Leonard Gordon.	50 th Bn.
Pte.	Edwards, Ernest.	54 th Bn.	Pte.	Elliott, Leonard William.	24 th Bn.
Pte.	Edwards, Fred Christopher.	1 st Bn.	Lieut.	Elliott, Lorne Burton.	46 th Bn.

Image 7: Capt. W. J. Egan in *The Book of Remembrance*²³

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