

WW I Casualties of Whitewater Region Project

Corporal David Orville Hamilton

Cpl. David Orville HAMILTON, son of **Samuel HAMILTON** and **Margaret Jane LEBARRON**, was born on 9 Sep 1895 in Bromley Twp. David had 3 younger brothers – Forrest, Robert & Lawrence.¹ His brother Forrest also served in the army. David attended S.S.# 9 Bromley Township which was located on the corner of the Hamilton farm. He enlisted at Barriefield Camp, Ottawa on Mar 10, 1915 at age 19 years, 2 months. (Two different dates of enlistment are listed in his service records, the second being Jul 23, 1915.) His occupation was listed as farmer and he was 5'4" and 142 lbs., with greyish blue eyes and fair hair.²



Image 1: David Orville Hamilton³



Image 2: David Orville Hamilton with parents Samuel & Margaret Jane (nee LeBarron)⁴

Pte. David Hamilton sailed from Halifax to Bermuda in August 1915, where he trained as a machine gunner. He arrived in England in May 1916, and while there, enrolled in the Lewis Gun Instructors course and obtained "1st class" standing in musketry. He was transferred to Le Havre, France on August 14, 1916. He served with the 38th Battalion and worked his way up to the rank of Corporal.

Pte. Hamilton was wounded on Mar 17, 1918 with a gunshot wound to the left leg but returned to service after healing.⁵ Having been promoted to Corporal by the time of his death, Cpl. Hamilton died of wounds on 30 Sep 1918 at the No. 30 Casualty Clearing Station near Sailly, France. He was age 23, and was buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de

WW I Casualties of Whitewater Region Project

Calais, France. He had served 3 ½ years.^{3,5,6,7,14} According to the circumstances of death registration, Cpl. Hamilton

“Died of Wounds

During an attack on Sep 29, 1918, and when in charge of a Lewis Gun, he was leading his Section to the attack after having crossed the main Douai-Cambrai Rd., and when in front of the village of Saily, he was hit by a machine gun bullet which penetrated his stomach. His wound was dressed by a stretcher bearer who was with him and he was carried to the Regimental Aid Post, thence to No. 30 Casualty Clearing Station, where he died from his wounds the following day.”⁶



Image 3: Cpl. David Hamilton – In Memoriam⁸

Cpl. David Hamilton’s name is commemorated on the original Memorial Hall plaque dedicated to the Cobden & Area soldiers who died in WWI, the Cobden Legion’s WWI Cobden Honour Roll,⁹ St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church WWI Honour Roll,¹⁰ and the Bromley Township War Memorial.¹¹ It also appears on his parents’ gravestone in Cobden Union Cemetery.¹²

Cpl David Hamilton’s family received the medals he had earned: British War Medal, Victory Medal and the Memorial Cross.²



Image 4: Hamilton Gravestone, Cobden Union Cemetery¹²

WW I Casualties of Whitewater Region Project

Photographs & history of Bucquoy Cemetery can be seen on a number of websites however Remembering the Fallen¹³ is well done.

The link below is a YouTube video of Bucquoy Road Cemetery¹⁴

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAcK4mTPL_s

Sources:

1. Bennett, Fay E., Faysgenealogy.com. www.faysgenealogy.com : family history database & images; 2001-present. Cobden, ON. (Original sources noted in database)
 2. Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. "Attestation Paper, Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force" Database.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/image.aspx?Image=375352a&URLjpg=http%3a%2f%2fcentral.bac-lac.gc.ca%2f.item%2f%3fop%3dimg%26app%3dCEF%26id%3d375352a&>
 3. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial: Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)." Database. Veterans Affairs Canada. www.veterans.gc.ca/eng.
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/178624?David%20Orville%20Hamilton>
 4. Hamilton, Betty. Email provided to Fay Bennett with photograph of David Hamilton & parents Samuel & Margaret Jane LeBarron, November, 2020.
 5. "Personnel Records of the First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. Library and Archives Canada. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=440641>
 6. "Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=img&app=microform&id=31829_B016684-00456
 7. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission." Database. www.cwgc.org <file:///D:/users/Fay/Downloads/Corporal%20David%20Orville%20Hamilton%20-%20CWGC%20Certificate.pdf>
 8. The Cobden Sun, "Cpl. David Orville Hamilton, In Memoriam", Oct 10, 1919
 9. Bennett, Wayne. *Photograph of the WWI Cobden Honour Roll*, The Cobden Legion, Ontario. November 2022.
 10. Johnston, Wilda. *Photograph of the WWI Honour Roll*, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cobden, Ontario. 2022.
 11. Bromley Township War Memorial, Douglas, ON
<https://ontariowarmemorials.blogspot.com/2021/01/douglas.html>
 12. Hamilton Gravestone, Cobden Union Cemetery, photographed by Fay Bennett, 2016
 13. Remembering the Fallen WWI, Bucquoy Road Cemetery, <https://www.wwlcemeteries.com/bucquoy-road-cemetery.html>
 14. Bucquoy Road Cemetery https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAcK4mTPL_s
 15. Hamilton, Brian. *Two Sons Who Fought for King and Country: David and Forrest Hamiton*, The Bromley Sheaf, Bromley Historical Society Newsletter, Issue 4, 2022.
- Special thanks to Cpl. Hamilton's niece, Betty Hamilton (via Lorraine Hamilton) for supplying the photograph of Cpl. David Hamilton with his parents.