

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Private Hugh Edward Brownlee

Hugh Edward Brownlee, son of **Joseph Brownlee** and **Jennet Jessie Sinclair**, was born on 28 Feb 1882 in Clarendon Twp., Pontiac, Quebec. He was the 8th of 10 children who were all born in Pontiac County. His mother died in 1898 when he was 16 years old. His father is listed in the Westmeath Twp., census for 1911 and died there in 1913. Three of Hugh's siblings married into the Bromley family of Westmeath Twp.¹

Hugh Brownlee stepped forward to volunteer for the local militia unit in Kenora where he was farming.³ On Sept 22, 1914,² at age 32 years, he enlisted into the 8th Battalion (Royal Winnipeg Rifles) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Valcartier, Quebec.² He was described as 5'11" tall with a dark complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He listed his occupation as farmer but declared he had 2 years' experience with the Royal North West Mounted Police.²

He was taken on strength with the 98th Battalion and the unit sailed on Oct 3, 1914. In February 1915, he was sent with the 8th Battalion to France.³

The Kenora Great War Project contains an entry on Pte. Hugh Edward Brownlee and describes the Battalions' movements and battles in France.³ It was while his battalion were draining the trenches and repairing wire defenses that he was killed in action in the vicinity of Souchez, France on 12 Nov 1916 aged 34.⁶

A letter written to Pte. Brownlee's sister by his Sergeant was published in the newspaper, I suspect a Pembroke paper. It describes the circumstances of death.

Pte. Hugh Edward Brownlee was buried in Villers Station Military Cemetery at Villers-au-Bois, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.^{7,8}

Pte. Brownlee is also honored on the Beachburg and Westmeath War Memorials.^{11,12}

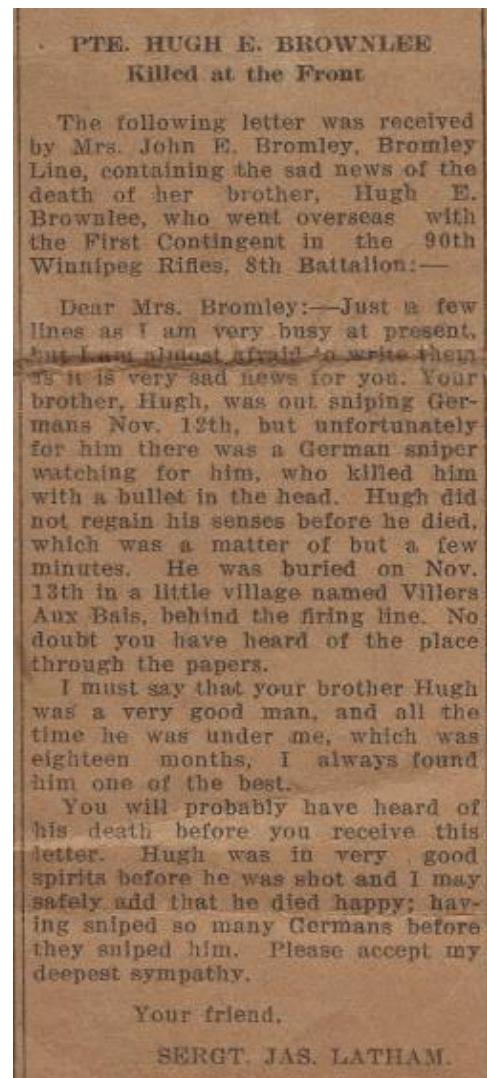


Image 1: Photograph of Pte. Hugh Brownlee⁴

Image 2: Letter from Sgt. James Latham to Mrs. John E. Bromley¹⁰

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In Memory Of

Private

HUGH ED BROWNLEE

Service Number: 641

8th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 12 November 1916 Age 34

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Brownlee, of Bromley Line, Ontario.

HE GAVE HIS ALL

Remembered with Honour

VILLERS STATION CEMETERY, VILLERS-AU-BOIS

II. B. 19.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Image 3: CWGC Certificate⁸

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Sources:

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11. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Beachburg War Memorial*. Beachburg, Ontario. November 2022.
12. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Westmeath War Memorial*. Westmeath, Ontario. November 2022.