

WW I Casualties of Whitewater Region Project

Private Herbert Joseph Tuffy

Pte. Herbert Joseph TUFFY, son of **Edward TUFFY** and **Ellen SHIELDS**, was born on 8 Nov 1884 in Cobden, Ontario. He was the 7th of 11 children (3 died in infancy). Herbert's father Edward was a businessman and community builder in Cobden. Herbert attended high school in Renfrew as there as no high school in Cobden at the time. Students travelled by train to get to school.¹



At the time of enlistment on Feb 26, 1918 in Kingston, Ontario, Pte. Herbert Tuffy was 33 years, 3 months old. He was 5' 5" tall, weighed 130 lbs., had blue eyes and black hair. His trade was listed as general business which would also have been his father's occupation. He enlisted into the 1st Depot Bn, Eastern Ontario Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Force.²

Unfortunately, he never had
*Image 1: Herbert Tuffy*⁷ an opportunity to leave Canada. He contacted the Spanish influenza, an epidemic at the time, and was admitted to the Edmonton Isolation Hospital from the Troop Train of the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force on Oct 19, 1918. He died of pneumonia on Oct 26, 1918 in Edmonton, Alberta just 8 months after enlistment.²

Pte. Herbert Tuffy was buried in his home church cemetery – St. Pius V Roman Catholic Cemetery, Osceola. He was serving in the 259th Battalion Canadian Infantry at the time.^{4,5}

His name is also commemorated on the plaque for the original Memorial Hall¹ and Cobden Legion's WWI Honour Roll plaque.⁸

Pte. Tuffy's mother was the recipient of his medals and the memorial cross. The plaque and scroll usually presented to fathers of WWI casualties went to his father.²

Pte. Herbert Tuffy.

Pembroke Observer: The many Pembroke friends of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tuffy, and of the young man himself, heard with much regret of the bereavement which has come to the family through the death of their youngest son, Pte. Herb. Tuffy, at Edmonton, Alta., last Saturday. Through some failure on the part of the telegraph company word of his demise did not reach the family until Monday. Pte. Tuffy was in training at Niagara Camp and was a member of a draft which started a short time ago en route to Siberia. At various points along the line he mailed cards to the folks at home, and they felt that all was well with him until the sad message announcing his passing reached them on Monday. It was a painful shock to parents, brothers and sisters as well as to the citizens of the community where "Herb" spent all his days and where he was so well and so favorably known. So far only meagre particulars regarding his death have been received, but it appears that when nearing Edmonton he was taken ill, and was removed to an hospital in that city, where he passed away. The family are making efforts to have the body brought home for burial, but whether they will succeed is not yet known. The late Herbert Tuffy was thirty-two years of age, and the youngest son. He had for years been actively associated with his father in the store business at Cobden, and was very highly thought of by all. Throughout the Ottawa Valley he was well known, and in Pembroke had many friends who will mourn his early passing. His death marks the end of a career which gave every promise of success and usefulness, and much sympathy goes out to the afflicted family in their sorrow. Surviving, besides his respected parents, are two brothers, Lawrence and William, and three sisters, Mabel Edna, Carmen and Margaret.

Deceased was a member of Eganville Council, Knights of Columbus.

*Image 2: Death Announcement*⁹

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Image 3: Commonwealth War Graves Certificate⁵

Sources:

1. Bennett, Fay E., Faysgenealogy.com. www.faysgenealogy.com : family history database & images; 2001-present. Cobden, ON. (Original sources noted in database)
2. "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=283770>
3. Ancestry.com. *Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.



Image 4: Gravestone, St. Pius V R.C. Cemetery¹⁰

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4. 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/2756909?Herbert%20Tuffy](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2756909?Herbert%20Tuffy)
5. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission." Database. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2756909/herbert-j-tuffy/>
6. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=515&book=1&sort=pageAsc>
7. Photograph of Herbert Tuffy extracted from Newspaper clipping of the 1903 RCI Football and Girls Basketball Team, 'Photographic peek into the past', date unknown, From the scrapbook collection of Valerie Peever.
8. Bennett, Wayne. *Photograph of the WWI Cobden Honour Roll*, The Cobden Legion, Ontario. November 2022.
9. "Pte. Herbert Tuffy", The Eganville Leader, Nov 8, 1918 p. 1
10. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of Pte. Herbert Tuffy gravestone, St. Pius V Roman Catholic Cemetery*. 2018.