

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Private James Dickson

Pte. James Dickson, son of **William Dickson** and **Elizabeth Ann Davidson**, was born on September 27, 1892 in Pembroke Twp., Ontario. William and Elizabeth Ann were both born in Westmeath Twp., and farmed there until about the time of the birth of James at which time they were living in Stafford Twp. James was the 9th of at least 10 children with 5 living sisters and 1 living brother.¹

James enlisted on Nov 22, 1915 at Pembroke, Ontario. He listed his occupation as farmer. He was 23 years, 3 months old. He was described as 5' 10" tall, weighing 150 lbs., and had a dark complexion, brown eyes, and black hair. Pte. James Dickson arrived in England on May 4, 1916 served with the 87th Battalion, Canadian Grenadier Guards.² The battalion received training from an officer and four drill sergeants from the British Grenadier Guards during their stay in England.³ They embarked for France on August 11, 1916 with a total strength of 1,090 all ranks.^{2,3}

In the Battle of Somme, on November 18, 1916, the 87th Battalion was assigned to capture a section of Desire Trench, as well as its support systems. The attack was launched from Regina Trench which they had secured. The attack succeeded well beyond expectations³ however Pte. James Dickson died that day. The Circumstances of Death Register stated:

*"Previously reported missing, believed killed, now for official purposes presumed to have died" attack on Desire Trench, Courcellette"*⁵

Pte. James Dickson was killed in action however his body was never recovered. His sacrifice is commemorated at the Vimy Memorial, Vimy Ridge, Pas de Calais, France.^{4,6} He is also honored on the Greenwood Methodist Church Memorial Tablet.⁷



Image 1: Pte. James Dickson⁴



Image 2: Memorial Tablet Unveiling⁷

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Sources:

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7. "Unveiling of Memorial Tablet", The Cobden Sun, Sep 23, 1920 p. 1
8. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=77&book=1&sort=pageAsc>