

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Pte. William Napoleon Lemoyne Gervais

Pte. Lemoyne William Napoleon Gervais, son of **Gilbert-Cyrille Gervais** and **Henrietta Monica Bertrand**, was born on 20 Dec 1884 at Lapasse, Ontario. Both of his parents were born and farmed at Lapasse. Lemoyne was the 9th of at least 10 children, 8 boys and 2 girls.¹

Lemoyne Gervais enlisted at age 30, on Aug 24, 1915 at Montreal, Quebec. He was described as 5' 4 3/4" tall, weighing 210 lbs. with light brown complexion, brown eyes and bald headed with dark brown hair. He served in the 41th Battalion and later the 22nd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He arrived for duty on June 10, 1916 in France. Only three months later, Pte. Gervais was killed in action, in the Battle of Courcelette.²

The Circumstances of Death Register states:
*Died of wounds: On Sep 15, 1916 whilst crossing through the enemy barrage near the lines occupied by the 6th Brigade at Courcelette. He was carried to No. 15 Main Dressing Station near Albert by stretcher bearers, where he succumbed the following day.*³

The Battle of Courcelette was part of the Somme offensive. It was the first battle that tanks were utilized and it was fought between Sept 15-22, 1916. Of the 800 men of the 22nd Battalion who took part in the initial assault, 118 remained after three days of fighting.⁵ Pte. Gervais was died on 16 Sep 1916 in Albert, Somme, France aged 31, and was buried in Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France.^{4,6}

Pte. Lemoyne Gervais is commemorated on two monuments at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery in Lapasse.¹⁰ His name is listed on his parents' gravestone as well as the monument erected in memory of those who gave the supreme sacrifice in WWI and WWII. His sacrifice is also commemorated on the Beachburg¹¹ and Westmeath¹² War Memorial.

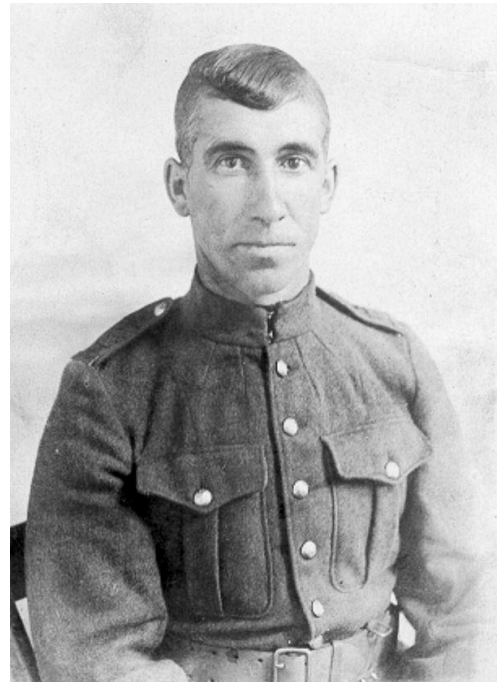


Image 1: Pte. Lemoyne Gervais⁴



Image 2: Gravestone at Dartmoor Cemetery⁴



Image 3: Memorial at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery¹⁰

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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/item.aspx?IdNumber=412097>
3. "Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/circumstances-death-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageID=6041> go to 483 of 748
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/38831?Lemoyne%20Gervais>
5. "Battle of Courcellette", The Canadian Encyclopedia, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/battle-of-courcellette>
6. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission." Database. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/38831/WILLIAM%20NAPOLEON%20LEMOYNE%20GERVAIS/>
7. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=91&book=1&sort=pageAsc>
8. Find A Grave, Dartmoor Cemetery, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56040868/william-napoleon_lemoyne-gervais
9. Find A Grave, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/219758441/lemoyne-gervais> and
10. Photograph of Memorial erected in memory of those who gave the supreme sacrifice in WWI and WWII at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lapasse, Ontario. Photographed by Fay Bennett
11. Photograph of the Beachburg War Memorial, photographed by Fay Bennett
12. Photograph of the Westmeath War Memorial, photographed by Fay Bennett