

## WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

### Private John McGonegal

**Pte. John McGONEGAL**, son of **John McGONEGAL** and **Elizabeth CARNEGIE**, was born on Sep 18, 1897 in Westmeath Twp., Ontario. His parents were both born in Westmeath Twp., and farmed there. John and his twin sister Lizzie were the youngest of the family of six. He had 3 sisters and 2 brothers.<sup>1</sup>

John enlisted into the Canadian Infantry on 20 Nov 1916 at Renfrew, Ontario. At the time, he listed his occupation as farmer and he was 18 years old (his birth year on his Attestation Papers indicated 1898). He was described as 5' 4 3/4" tall, weighing 137 lbs. He had a dark complexion, blue eyes and black hair. Pte. John McGonegal served with the 240<sup>th</sup> Battalion and arrived in England on May 14, 1917. He was posted to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment) and joined the field in France on Jan 18, 1918. During the Battle of Scarpe on Aug 28, 1918, the forces advancement towards the Fresnes-Rouroy switch and the clearing of Jigsaw woods was a success, however Pte. McGonegal suffered gunshot wounds to the shoulder. He died of those wounds at No. 7 Casualty Clearing Station at Ligny-Saint-Flochel on Aug 30, 1918. The P.P.C.L.I suffered 54 casualties and 143 wounded during that battle.<sup>2</sup>

Pte. John McGonegal was buried in Ligny-St. Flochel British Cemetery, Ligny-Saint-Flochel, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

His sacrifice is commemorated on the Beachburg<sup>11</sup>, Westmeath<sup>12</sup> and Pembroke<sup>13</sup> War Memorials. His name is also inscribed on his parents' gravestone<sup>14</sup> in Perretton Cemetery.



Image 1: Pte. John McGonegal<sup>3</sup>

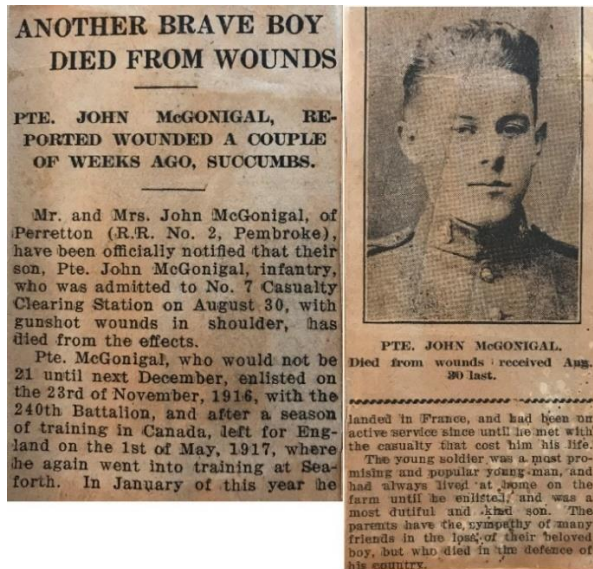


Image 2: Death of Pte John McGonegal<sup>5</sup>

Pte. John McGonegal's name is also listed on the Perretton United Church Honor Roll<sup>15</sup> and the Beachburg United Church Honor Roll<sup>16</sup>.



Image 3: Beachburg War<sup>11</sup> Memorial

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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 on website)
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=153818>
3. Photograph of Pte. John McGonegal from the collection of Ruby Bennett (nee McGonegal).
4. Hodder-Williams, Ralph, Summary of the War Diary for August 28, 1918, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry 1914-1919 found online <https://ppcli.com/file/Princess-Patricias-Canadian-Light-Infantry-Vol-II-1914-1919.pdf>
5. "Another Brave Boy Died From Wounds" Newspaper clipping from the scrapbook of Viola Price, provided by Nancy England
6. "Pte. John McGonegal 1987-1918" Newspaper clippings from the scrapbook collections of Lena Byce
7. "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=70705> go to 595 of 1160
8. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial: Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)." Database. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/468068?John%20McGonegal>
9. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission." Database. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/468068/john-mcgonegal/>
10. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=458&book=1&sort=pageAsc>
11. Photograph of The Beachburg War Memorial, photographed by Fay Bennett
12. Photograph of The Westmeath War Memorial, photographed by Fay Bennett
13. Photograph of The Pembroke War Memorial, photographed by Fay Bennett
14. Photograph of the gravestone of John McGonegal & Elizabeth nee Carnegie, parents of Pte. John McGonegal. Photographed by Fay Bennett
15. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The WWI Honor Roll*. Perretton United Church, Perretton, Ontario. November 2022.
16. Moratz, Kevin. *Photograph of The WWI Honor Roll*. Beachburg United Church, Beachburg, Ontario. November 2022.