

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Private Edward Moran

Edward Moran, son of **Thomas and Annie Moran**, was born on 6 Mar 1896 in Wednesbury, Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, West Midlands, England. According to next of kin reported on his military personnel record, he had at least two siblings, a sister Winnifred and a brother Patrick.^{1,2} His father was deceased. Edward is found in the 1901 British Census at West Bromwich Union's Poor Law school and workhouse at Wigmore, England. He was 5 years old. The circumstances that put him there, have not been discovered. He was sent to Canada under the Catholic Emigration Association (Father Hudson) at the age 10. He was a British Home Child who departed from Liverpool on Jun 28, 1906 and arrived in Quebec on July 6, 1906. The Canadian Distribution Home was in Ottawa³. From there until his enlistment, the only reference I can find of an Edward Moran born in England and immigrated in 1906, is in the 1911 Census of Brudenell. An Edward Moran who was a domestic worker on the farm, was living in the household of Patrick and Mary Hartney. His occupation stated at time of enlistment was barber. We know he is listed on the Ross Township WWI Memorial Tablet at Forester's Falls, so whether he worked on a farm in that community or took up the barber trade there has yet to be discovered but at some point in time, he must have lived in Ross Township.¹

Pte. Edward Moran enlisted on Sep 27, 1915 at Montreal. He was 19 years, 7 months at the time of enlistment and was described as 5' 8 3/4" tall, 140 pounds, with a dark complexion, brown eyes and dark hair. Edward served with the 13th Battalion, Quebec Regiment, Royal Highlanders of Canada. His unit sailed Mar 31, 1916 for England and reached the field in France on July 1, 1916.² A short 3 months later, Pte. Edward Moran was killed in action during the Battle of The Somme. According to a book⁴ dedicated to the 13th Battalion Royal Highlanders of Canada dead, the attack on Oct 8th was launched at 4:50 am when still dark. The reports coming back were much delayed and hard to obtain. The attack had progressed smoothly over No Man's Land, but on sweeping forward for the actual plunge into Regina Trench, had run into a great mass of uncut wire. In the 13th Battalion, 17 officers and 360 men went forward and of these, 13 officers and 288 men were casualties including Pte. Edward Moran. His body was never recovered.

The circumstances of death register indicated that He died in the Battle of The Somme on or since Oct 8, 1916 and he was

"Previously reported Missing now for official purposes presumed to have Died." Attack north of Courcellette.⁵

Pte. Edward Moran's sacrifice is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial^{6,7} as well as on the Ross Township WWI Memorial Plaque⁸ at Trinity United Church, Forester's Falls. There are at least 3 other young men of Whitewater Region who have their names etched on the Vimy Memorial as well as 3 other British Home Children of Whitewater Region who were casualties in the Great War.¹



Image 1: Ross Township WWI Memorial Plaque⁴

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