

Fathers and sons who served together in the 60th battalion

Minnett

James William (785105) – Ernest (785108)

James Minnett was a farmer from Mount Hope, Ontario and the father of seven children, two boys and five girls; Ernest was the oldest male and the second oldest overall. James and Ernest attested to the 129th Battalion in Hamilton, Ontario on February 25, 1916. On medical examination James claimed he was forty three years nine months old. Father and son arrived in England on April 30, 1916 only two months after signing up. On October 19, 1916 they were transferred to the 124th Battalion and on December 6, 1916 they were transferred, as part of a reinforcing draft, to the 60th battalion. They served with the 60th until it was disbanded on April 23, 1917 when both men were transferred to the 87th Battalion.

On August 15, 1917 while the 87th Battalion was involved in very heavy fighting at Lens James suffered gas poisoning from an exploding gas shell. He was admitted to No 12 Canadian field ambulance for treatment and on August 25th he was sent to No 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples and transferred to the 1st Quebec Regimental Depot. On the 23rd of November he was sent to the Canadian Discharge Depot at Buxton for discharge back to Canada. He was suffering from varicose veins and was diagnosed with heart problems. His medical records record his age as forty nine years old. It appears he had lied about his age in order to enlist. He was returned to Canada at was discharged in Toronto on February 5, 1918 being Medically Unfit for further service.

Ernest suffered a similar fate. On November 14, 1917 he to became a victim of a gas shell and was admitted to No 11 Canadian field Ambulance suffering from gas poisoning. On the 24th he was invalided, wounded, to England and posted to the 1st Quebec Regimental Depot at Bramshott. On April 19, 1918 he was declared recovered and fit for duty and transferred to the 23rd Reserve Battalion. Ernest would serve in England with the 23rd until he was discharged back to Canada on November 29, 1919