

LONG, Francis 'Frank' William

Service Number 29112

Rank Lance Corporal
Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment) 16th Battalion

Born November 4, 1887, Sutton, Surrey, England
Died July 11, 1915, Ploegsteert, Belgium

Occupation Clerk
Marital Status Single

Little is known about Frank Long's background. He was born in Sutton, Surrey which is a borough of London. His attestation papers give no address in the Parksville area and he is not listed in the BC Directories. We do know that before emigrating, he served three years in the Royal Berkshire Yeomanry so may have seen action in South Africa, in the Second Boer War. He enlisted in 1914.

In April 1915, Frank was admitted to a field hospital with infected feet and had part of his leg amputated. He returned to duty.

In June 1915, the 16th Battalion was depleted and waiting for reinforcements. While they waited, the soldiers enjoyed good weather, played football and baseball, and celebrated birthdays. However, within days they were sent to defend the Ploegsteert (known as Plugstreet) - Hill 63 front which necessitated work and trench duty, with one man doing the work of two. They still enjoyed sunny weather, but the enemy was camped just over the hill and snipers continued their work. Frank was promoted to Lance Corporal but reported missing just days afterward. He was later reported killed in action in trenches northeast of Ploegsteert, Belgium.

Frank Long is buried in Strand Military Cemetery, Belgium and is commemorated in Surrey and Sutton, England.

Sources: Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library
Electriccanadian.com/forces/The History of the 16th Battalion
SurreyintheGreatWar.org.uk

