

THOMAS, Hugh Roy

Service Number 227625

Rank Private

Canadian Infantry, British Columbia Regiment, 7th Battalion

Born April 25, 1888, Windsor, England

Died August 22, 1917, No. 18 Casualty Clearing Station

Occupation Rancher

Marital Status Single

Originally from England, the Thomas family bought land in Nanoose Bay around 1908. Hugh Roy, or Roy as he is listed in the BC Directories, would have been about twenty at the time. The land included a barn and a stagecoach relay station along the “Comox Road,” (now the Island Highway) south of Craig’s Crossing.

In May 1916, Hugh Roy Thomas enlisted in the 11th Canadian Mounted Rifles, which was later absorbed into the 7th Battalion. He landed in France by the end of October. In the first few months of 1917, he was admitted to hospital for problems with his feet but returned to his unit. On August 10 or August 15, he was admitted to No. 18 Casualty Clearing Station with multiple gunshot wounds. He died of his wounds on August 22, 1917.

Hugh Roy Thomas is buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, near Pas de Calais, France

Sources: Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library
A History of Nanoose Bay, 2nd edition, compiled by Barbara Prael Sivertz

