

ALEXANDER, Stewart MacKenzie

Service Number 129209

Rank Lance Corporal
Canadian Infantry, Manitoba Regiment, 16th Battalion

Born February 17, 1897, Coldingham, Scotland
Died October 8 or October 9, 1916, at Rouen, France

Occupation Farmer, Errington
Marital Status Single

To enlist, 15-year-old Stewart Alexander said he was 18 and gave his birth year as 1897. Filled with enthusiasm and a sense of duty like many young Canadians, he likely wanted to enlist along with his brother Charles. There are photographs of the two brothers, standing proudly side by side at the train station in their uniforms. Charles would return to the family farm in Errington, but Stewart did not.

Stewart joined the Manitoba Regiment of the Canadian Infantry, a Scottish Regiment. He was designated an acting Lance Corporal, which meant he acted as second-in-command over other privates in his section. He embarked for England from Halifax on April 23, 1916. Arriving in Liverpool on May 5, he was then posted to Europe on June 18. He transferred to the 72nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders and was then drafted back to the 16th Battalion. In September, he suffered a gunshot wound to his right hand. On October 9, he was reported missing and is presumed to have died on either the October 8 or October 9. His name is inscribed on the Vimy Memorial.

Sources: Photo: Parksville Museum & Archives
Bob Herbison
Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
Canadiansoldiers.com
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
WWI Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada



Alexander brothers

