

## **BREWIS, Thomas Anthony**

Service Number 75449

Rank Private

Canadian Infantry, British Columbia Regiment, 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Born April 28, 1890, Wallsend, Newcastle, United Kingdom

Died August 21, 1917, near Lens, France

Occupation Rancher, Errington

Marital Status Single

In March 1907, at the age of 17, Thomas Anthony Brewis Jr. arrived in Canada. He made his way to Vancouver and later that year was joined by his family. His father, a grocer, set up business on Hastings Street. The 1914 Henderson's Vancouver Island Gazetteer lists Thomas as being a farmer in Errington.

He enlisted with the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion and was assigned to the Scout Section. He attended a wiring course (how to lay out barbed wire – see <https://militaryhistorynow.com/2014/01/08/barbed-wire-war-how-one-farmers-innovation-changed-the-battlefield/> ) in 1916 to learn skills desperately needed on the front. In August, he suffered a broken leg and was invalided to England to recuperate.

Eventually he saw action again, at the Battle of Hill 70 in the strategic attack on Lens, France. On the night of August 20-21, 1917, his Scout Section guided the companies forward. Following that night, he was reported missing in action and then killed in action.

Thomas Anthony Brewis is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial in France.

Sources: British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library  
Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada  
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada  
WWI Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada  
North East War Memorials Project

