

OUIMET, Wesley John

Service Number 476555

Rank Gunner
Canadian Field Artillery, First Brigade, 3rd Battery

Born December 24, 1891, Port Huron, Michigan, USA

Died June 26, 1917, near Vimy, France

Occupation Lather

Marital Status Single

Seeking better opportunities, Wesley John Ouimet's Ontario parents moved several times for his father's work in the trades. Wesley was born in Port Huron, Michigan, where the family lived for several years before moving to the west coast and Victoria. The 1914 BC Directory lists the family living in Victoria although they had recently moved to Errington. Meanwhile, Wesley worked at various jobs and volunteered with a local militia. The 1912 Henderson's Directory lists him working as a waiter at the Queen's Hotel and sharing rooms on Blanshard Street with his brother.

Wesley enlisted in August 1914. At Shornecliffe Camp in England he was drafted to the 1st Canadian Division Ammunition Column, embarking for France in early 1916. In early 1917, Wesley received a Good Conduct badge. His unit, the 3rd Battery supported the capture of Vimy Ridge and by June 15, 1917, was in position just south of the ridge. The next morning, June 16, 1917, enemy shelling destroyed an underground dugout, killing several men, including Wesley.

Wesley's body was not recovered. Wesley John Ouimet is commemorated at the Vimy Memorial.

Sources: Photo: The Daily Colonist, Wednesday, July 18, 1917
Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
War Diaries, Library and Archives Canada
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library
Ernie Barnum

