

BRIGNALL, Frank

Service Number 16748

Rank Private

Canadian Infantry, British Columbia Regiment, 7th Battalion

Born December 14, 1878, Upper Norwood, London, England

Died April 24, 1915, St. Julien, Ypres, Belgium

Occupation Broker, Errington

Marital Status Single

Other than his birthplace and school, we don't know much about Frank Brignall's life. It's possible that he and Alfred Sivell, another veteran who died in the war, may have been friends as they came from the same area of London and both lived in Errington. The two died on the same day during the same battle.

During the war, Frank Brignall corresponded with his family and one of his letters is published in a book "*War Letters of Fallen Englishmen*" by Laurence Housman. The letter was written in Flanders on April 15, 1915, just before he was killed.

He began with a casual greeting, "Dear People" and went on to vividly describe his experiences on the march and in the trenches, and the sights and destruction he saw. He even described the sound of shells as they screamed through the air.

Frank Brignall served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders. In the second battle of Ypres in April 1915, the Canadian forces defiantly held the line after the Germany army released chlorine gas for the first time in the war. Casualties were huge during the struggle to secure the line, including Frank who was killed in action on April 24, 1915. He is buried at Perth Cemetery in Belgium.

Sources: Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
WW1 Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada
"*War Letters of Fallen Englishmen*" by Laurence Houseman
Surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk
Obituary, Daily Colonist September 21, 1915

