

Private George Henry Grindley

No. 5 Field Ambulance CAMC

Family Life:

George Grindley was born on August 8th, 1892, in London, England, to Catherine Hodges. George emigrated from the United Kingdom as a Barnardo boy to Canada, where he was placed in the home of a Sullivan Township farmer. He completed his secondary schooling at the Owen Sound Collegiate Institute and became a teacher.

He was interested in church work and was a member of the Young People's Society of the Baptist Church.

Military Service:

Private Grindley enlisted with Fifth Canadian Field Ambulance, Canadian Army Medical Corps on November 26th, 1914. He was part of a larger contingent from Owen Sound's St. John Ambulance Corps to enlist at the outbreak of the Great War.

After training in Canada the 5th Field Ambulance sailed aboard the SS Northland arriving in the United Kingdom on April 29th, 1915.

Lessons Learned:

When the 5th Ambulance first organized in Toronto, George wrote a letter to a local paper complaining about the poor quality of the food they were being served. His superiors caught wind of the complaint and George was called up before them to answer and "received a very severe reprimand." Needless to say, afterwards there was a marked improvement in the quality of the food. Source: *Stretcher bearers... at the double!*



Military Service:

Private Grindley was temporarily attached to the 2nd Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment in May of 1916, before being returned to the 5th Field Ambulance the following July.

The 5th Field Ambulance would support the Canadian Corps during the Battle of the Somme. The Canadian Corps had begun its first major action two days earlier at Courcellette on September 15th. According to Private Grindley's Circumstances of Death Register he was killed in action near Warloy-Baillon, France, two days later, on September 17th.

Since George Grindley has no known grave in France, his name was inscribed on the Vimy Memorial. He is also listed on the Chatsworth and Community Cenotaph and the Great War Plaque of the Owen Sound Collegiate Institute.



Decorations:

1914-15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal