

Gunner William Alan Bishop

25th Battery, 7th Brigade, CFA

Family Life:

William Alan Bishop was born to Florence and Alan Kilbourn Bishop on August 3rd, 1891. Alan Bishop was the first cousin of William Avery Bishop and his boyhood home on 8th Street West was just around the corner from Billy Bishop's on Third Avenue West in Owen Sound.

Alan attended the Owen Sound Collegiate Institute and at the time of enlistment he was a student at the University of Toronto.

Military Service:

Gunner Bishop enlisted with the 25th Battery, 7th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery on June 16th, 1915. He completed training in Canada at Ottawa, Barriefield and Valcartier before embarking for the United Kingdom. Gunner Bishop arrived in England on August 18th, 1915.

The 7th Brigade CFA was deployed with the Canadian Corps in France in time for the Battle of the Somme in September of 1916.

Military Service:

The unit was ordered to support a "general attack" near Courcellette on September 26th, 1916.

According to Bishop's Circumstances of Death Register, he joined another gunner and officer with the "object of getting into the enemy line to observe." The trio came under heavy shell fire and Gunner Bishop was severely wounded.

His fellow artillerymen lost contact with him and a search party was sent out to look for him but were unable to find a "trace" of the soldier as stated in a period newspaper report. Even though family and friends held out hope that Gunner Bishop may still be alive he was later "presumed to have died."

Since Alan Bishop has no known grave in France, his name was inscribed on the Vimy Memorial. He is also listed on the University of Toronto's First World War Roll of Service and the Owen Sound Collegiate's Great War Plaque.



Decorations:

1914-15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Lessons Learned:

Fellow soldier and Owen Sound local, Minister of the Division Street Church, Thurlow Fraser wrote a letter to the grieving parents of Alan Bishop about the death of his close friend: "I know what a blow it must have been to you. He was young, and his life full of promise. Yet it is such lives this war is taking all the time. It is reaping a harvest of the young before their time."