

Private Thomas Albert “Bert” Golden

2nd Canadian Pioneer Battalion, CEF

Family Life:

Thomas was born on March 14, 1895, at Southampton, Ontario, to George and Jane Golden.

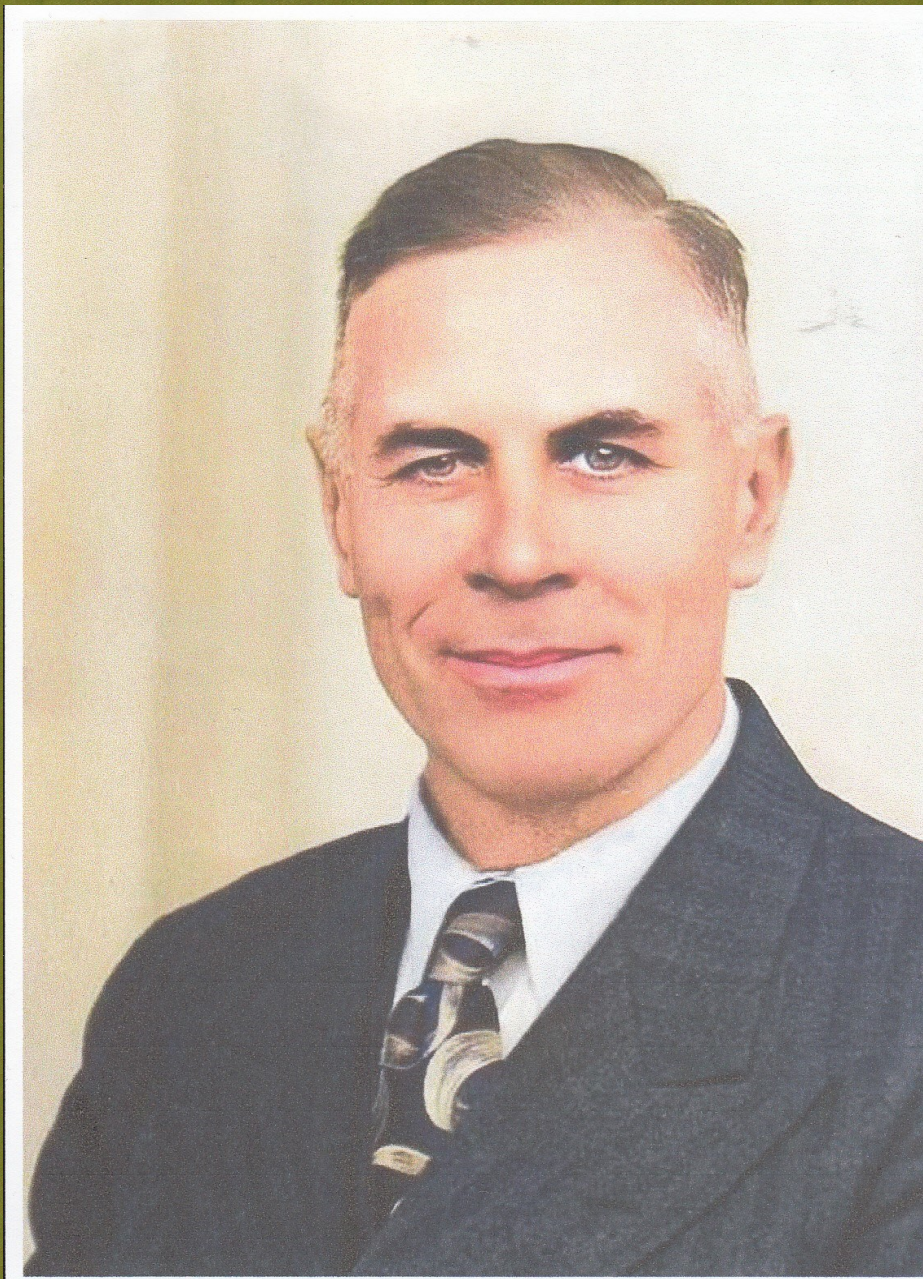
Thomas was the fourth of five siblings, with Violet being born in 1888, Georgina 1890, Charles 1892 and then Minerva 1899.

He married Margaret McLeod on her father's estate on Thursday, November 18, 1920.

The Golden family found great opportunity in the Tobermory area. George W. Golden bought a grocery store where Thomas worked as Clerk. Following the Great War, Thomas, Charles, and George founded the Golden Fish and Transport Company.

Thomas was an active member of the community serving as Chairman of the Ontario Federation of Commercial Fisherman. He was also the President of the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay Commercial Fisherman's Association.

He passed on July 28, 1949, in his home with his daughter and son-in-law present. He was interred at Dunk's Bay Cemetery. His war service is memorialized on the Tobermory Cenotaph.



Service History:

Private Thomas Albert Golden enlisted with the 160th Bruce Battalion on February 16, 1916.

He arrived in England on October 28, 1916, aboard the S.S. Metagama and spent the rest of the year training with the 160th during which time he was appointed Acting Corporal. He reverted to Private when he transferred to the 2nd Canadian Pioneer Battalion.

He arrived in France on March 1st, 1918. He was wounded in Arras, France at the Marble Arch, on April 12th, 1918. He suffered a gun shot wound to his right buttock, which lodged shrapnel in his pelvis and fractured his sacrum. First treated by the 6th Canadian Field Ambulance, he was subsequently taken to No. 4 Canadian General Hospital in Basingstoke, England where he spent 76 days in hospital. Thomas was then invalided back to Canada on October 14, 1918. In Canada, he was first admitted to the Guelph Military Convalescent Hospital before being transferred to the W.O.M.H in London, Ontario, where he would undergo a series of surgeries ultimately spending just under a year there.

Thomas Golden was given an honorable discharge on October 28, 1919, being declared “medically unfit.”



Decorations:

- British War Medal
- Victory Medal

Recovering from a wound:

Thomas Golden's First World War Personnel File is 140 pages long which is much longer than the average file. Much of his file documents the treatments he received for the shrapnel wound to his right buttock. The treatment would have been a painful ordeal for Thomas as one medical document dated October 20th, 1919, stated, “Wounded April 12th, 1918. Right sacrum fractured. Wound has discharged ever since that date. Three operations have been done in an effort to remove the F[oreign] B[ody] and clean the wound. They did not achieve the desired result.” The Great War was a painful life changing experience for Thomas Golden.