

Private Charles Golden

2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade

Family Life:

Charles Richard Golden was born on February 13, 1892, in Southampton, Ontario, to George and Jane Golden. Charles was the third eldest of five siblings. Prior to enlistment, he listed his vocation as a sailor.

On December 28, 1915, Charles married Elspeth Margaret "Elsie" Hopkins. The couple had six children, Charles, Lynn, Peter, Harvey, Thomas and Delphine.

Upon his return from war in Europe, Charles continued his vocation as a sailor on the Great Lakes. He soon started a business called Golden Fish and Transport with his brother and father.

Elsie Golden sold The Hill Top Restaurant in Tobermory on June 20, 1946. The business was located close to the Ferry Dock and was well known to locals.

Charles Richard Golden passed away on Saturday, August 12, 1967, at the Memorial Hospital in Wiarton. He was later interred at Dunk's Bay Cemetery along with many of his family members.



Medals:

- British War Medal
- Victory War Medal

Service History:

Charles Golden enlisted with the 160th Bruce Battalion on December 29, 1915, at Wiarton, Ontario. Upon arriving overseas in the United Kingdom, he quickly climbed the ranks at Camp Witley. On July 2, 1917, Golden was promoted to the rank of corporal and six days later he was promoted to sergeant.

On February 10, 1918, Charles Golden contracted necrotizing gingivitis, a painful infection of the gums. Upon his leave from hospital, he was transferred to a reserve battalion and reverted to the rank of private.

On August 18, 1918, Private Golden was transferred to the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade Pool in France. He subsequently joined the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade. The unit participated in the Hundred Day Campaign which brought an end to the First World War.

The Brigade was often involved in removing hostile forces near the front lines by supporting the assaulting troops. It was an evolving type of mobilized warfare with heavy machine guns being mounted on armoured motorized vehicles.

Interesting Story:

Private Charles Golden arrived on the Western Front near the beginning of the Hundred Day Campaign. His Casualty-Active Service Form indicated he joined the 2nd C.M.M.G. Brigade in the 'field' (that being France) on August 29, 1918. The Canadian Corps consisting of four divisions were being used as spearhead troops pushing the enemy lines back towards Germany. Given the new mobility associated with the war, the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade would play several roles including direct skirmishes and assaults on enemy troops and outposts and indirect fire creating a barrage effect over enemy lines. Private Golden remained with the 2nd C.M.M.G. Brigade for the duration of the war. He was officially discharged in May 1919.