



COLDWATER REMEMBERS

PRIVATE JOSEPH BORROW

Joseph Borrow was born in Lawson just outside Coldwater, Ontario, on March 11, 1893, the third son of Dobson and Hannah (Coombs) Borrow.

On January 25, 1918, he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force under the Military Service Act (M.S.A.) in Brantford, Ontario. He was 24 years old and single. On his Attestation Form he is described as 5 feet 4 inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair. He identified his religious denomination as Methodist, and his trade as farmer, with no previous military experience.

Private Joseph Borrow, regimental number 3310573, sailed from Halifax to England on the S.S. Metagama to arrive on April 19, 1918. After training in England for several months, he joined his front line unit, the 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion (North British Columbians), in France, on September 4.



Less than a month later, on September 30, Private Borrow was killed in action during what became known as the "100 Day" final advance in the area of Cambrai. He was one of the last Coldwater soldiers to be killed in the First World War, and the only one to have been killed while serving under the Military Service Act - better known as "Conscription".

A few years later, his mother and father would have received the awards their son was entitled to: the 1914-1918 British War Medal; the Inter Allied Victory Medal; a Memorial Plaque (a bronze medallion often referred to as "Dead Man's Penny"); and a scroll from King George V. His mother would also have received a Memorial Cross, or "Mothers Cross".

Private Borrow is buried at Cantimpre Canadian Cemetery, Nord, near the village of Raillencourt on the main Arras-Cambrai road, France. He is commemorated on page 371 of the *First World War Book of Remembrance*, located inside the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa. Locally, he is also commemorated on his family stone at St. Andrew & St. James cemetery in Orillia, and, as of November 11, 2018, he is also commemorated on a plaque on the Cenotaph in front of the Coldwater Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

We will remember him.