



COLDWATER REMEMBERS PRIVATE ALBERT PRINCE

Albert Prince was born in Coldwater, Ontario, on January 9, 1895, son of James and Jane (Cook) Prince. On February 14, 1916, Albert enlisted in Cookstown with the 157th Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was 20 years old and single. On his Attestation Form he is described as 5 feet 3 inches tall, with grey eyes and brown hair. He identified his religious denomination as Methodist, and his trade as farmer. He had no previous military experience.

Private Albert Prince, regimental number 643487, sailed from Canada on the S.S. Cameronia, arriving in England on October 28, 1916. After training in England for a month, he landed in France and on December 6 joined his front line unit, the 19th Battalion (Central Ontario), part of the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division.



In early May, 1917, the 19th Battalion was positioned in trenches near Fresnoy, east of Vimy. The unit's War Diaries for the 8-9 May describes a chaotic situation with intense gas shell bombardments and attacks from numerically superior German forces, followed by counter-attacks from Canadian and Imperial troops, and ending with combatants more or less back to their initial positions, albeit with a high cost in casualties. In the aftermath of the battle, Private Prince was reported missing. Months later he was declared, "*for official purposes, presumed to have died on or since May 9, 1917.*"

Four years later, Albert's parents 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 "Mother's Cross".

Private Albert Prince has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, about 8 km northeast of Arras. In Canada he is commemorated on page 311 of the *First World War Book of Remembrance*, located inside the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower in Ottawa, as well as on Cenotaphs in Cookstown and in front of the Legion building in his home town of Coldwater. In Innisfil, a street is named after him: Prince Crescent.

We will remember him.