
Corporal William Howard Gemmell

10th Battalion Alberta Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Force
Service No: 183084

Born / Resided

Coatbridge / 11248, 126th St, Edmonton, Alberta with his mother Jane Gemmell

Died

Killed in Action 30/09/1918

Enlisted

Calgary, Alberta, Canada 03/11/1915

Employed

Cashier and Paymaster / Before Emigrating - William Bain and Company, Lochrin Iron Works

Age

23 / DOB - 22/05/1895

Buried / Remembered

Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

Family Information

Son of Stephen Howard (the late Town Chamberlain) (02/07/1856-25/05/1911) and Jane Gardner Gemmell (26/04/1862-1944) of 19 Margaret St, Coatbridge. Williams elder brother Private John Gemmell of the 11th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was Killed in Action on the 12/09/1915 (see index). William also had 4 sisters who he visited whilst on leave. From 1901 Census - Address - 26 Weir St, Coatbridge - Stephen H Gemmell aged 44, Jane Gemmell aged 39, Helen Jeffrey Gemmell aged 18, Agnes Howard Gemmell aged 16, Jane G Gemmell aged 13, Robert Howard Gardner Gemmell aged 11, John Gardner Gemmell aged 8, William H F G Gemmell aged 5, Margaret Hogg F Gemmell aged 1

Additional Information

William was Killed in Action as the German Army was in retreat less than 6 weeks before the Armistice. See photos for Williams Attestation papers. Williams grave inscription reads " HE DIED IF IT WAS DEATH TO GIVE HIS YOUNG LIFE THAT WE MIGHT LIVE "



Likeness

Medal Index Card



Grave

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? William Howard Semmell
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what County were you born? Loosbridge, Scotland
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Mrs Jean Semmell
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 9225 114th Ave. Edmonton
 5. What is the date of your birth? May 22nd 1895
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? Bookie & Paymaster
 7. Are you married? No
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? No
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force? Yes
- W. H. Semmell (Signature of Man.)
F. Stewart Dunn (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William Howard Semmell, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any unit of the service thereof, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty shall so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

W. H. Semmell (Signature of Recruit)
Date Nov 27 1914 F. Stewart Dunn (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William Howard Semmell, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will be in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Empire, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me, to the best of my power.

W. H. Semmell (Signature of Recruit)
Date Nov 27 1914 F. Stewart Dunn (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understood each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Edmonton on this 27th day of November 1914.

F. Stewart Dunn (Signature of Justice)
B. S. C. H.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

W. H. Semmell (Approving Officer)

Williams Attestation papers (1)

Description of *William Howard Sumner* Enlistment.

Apparent Age <u>20</u> years <u>6</u> months. <small>(To be described according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small>		Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease. <small>(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has acquired marks, he will, under the Act, advise the same in any certificate he may issue, in the form of the "Medical Certificate" of the approving Officer.)</small>
Height <u>5' 7 1/2 in.</u>		
Birth when fully expanded <u>35</u> in. Range of expansion <u>3</u> in.		
Complexion <u>Fair</u>		
Eyes <u>Blue</u>		
Hair <u>Dark Brown</u>		
Church of England Presbyterian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wesleyan Methodist Baptist or Congregationalist Other Protestants Roman Catholic Jewish		

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to any of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force.

Date July 23 1915

Place Calgary R. M. Coyle
 Medical Officer.

*When here "fit" is written, the Medical Officer will fill in the Prescribing Certificate only in the case of those who have been enlisted, and will forward same before the issue of uniforms.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

William Howard Sumner having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

W. H. Sumner (Signature of Officer)

Date July 3 1915

Williams Attestation papers (2)

© Creative Commons License

We have made this information and the images available under a [Creative Commons BY-NC license](#). This means you may reuse it for non-commercial purposes **only** and must attribute it to us using the following statement: © coatbridgeandthegreatwar.com