

Lance Corporal Asa G. Prosser

Regimental number: 709501

9th Battalion, Canadian Engineers

born: 21 April 1892 - died: 10 September 1918

Lance Corporal Asa G. Prosser was born on 21 April 1892 in Prosser Brook in the County of Albert, New Brunswick, the son of Ira and Jerusha Prosser.¹ Both Asa's parents were born in New Brunswick – his father, Ira, in 1849² and his mother, the former Jerusha Power,³ in 1853.⁴ Ira and Jerusha had at least nine children: Alexander (born in about 1878), Solomon (born in about 1880), Janetta (also probably known as Jeanette or Nettie) (born in about 1881), Martha B. (born in about 1884), William O. (born in about 1886), Francis A. (born in about 1888), Asa G., Annie F. (born in about 1895) and Fred A. (born in about 1897).⁵

In 1911, the family was living at Hopewell Hill near Riverside-Albert, New Brunswick, where Asa's father was a farmer.⁶

Asa enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 5 October 1915 in Sussex, New Brunswick.⁷ He was 23 years old and a farmer. He was 5' 8 ³/₄" tall and had a fair complexion, hazel eyes and light brown hair.

On 10 September 1918, the 9th Battalion of the Canadian Engineers was engaged in the "maintenance and repair of all roads and tracks in the Divisional area E ..." ⁸ The war diary notes that Lance Corporal Prosser died of wounds that day.

L/Corporal Prosser was sitting with some of his comrades at the bottom of a dug-out at RUMAUCOURT, when a shell exploded at the entrance, fragments going inside and severely wounding him and several others. He was taken to No. 8 Field Ambulance, and later to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died the following day.⁹

The journal of the chaplains at the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station noted that he had shrapnel wounds that penetrated his back when he was admitted on 10 September.¹⁰ He died the same day and was buried that day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row H, Grave 47) with the chaplain W. F. O'N. Fisher presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹¹ The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹² A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September.

His mother was his next-of-kin and was notified of his death. His parents died a few years apart about ten years after the war – his mother, Jerusha, in 1928 and his father, Ira, in 1930. Both are buried in Bay View Cemetery in Albert County.

There is no evidence to suggest that any of Asa's brothers served in the Great War.

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- ¹ "Vital Statistics from Government Records (RS141)," Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (<http://archives.gnb.ca/>; accessed 13 October 2015), entry for Prosser, Asa, Code: 6-1-20-28, Microfilm: F14885
- ² "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 13 October 2015), entry for Asa G, Prosser, Province: New Brunswick, District: Albert, District Number: 13, Sub-District: Hopewell, Sub-District Number: F-3
- ³ "Find a Grave," (www.findagrave.com; accessed 13 October 2015), entry for Jerusha Power Prosser
- ⁴ "1901 Census of Canada," entry for Asa G, Prosser. Other records indicate alternative spellings for Jerusha's name.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ "1911 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 24 March 2015), entry for William Beeching, Province: New Brunswick, District: Kings and Albert, District Number: 29, Sub-District: 40 - Hopewell Parish, Albert, Riverside, Hopewell Hill, Sub-District Number: 40
- ⁷ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 13 October 2015), entry for Asa Prosser
- ⁸ « MIKAN 2005999: War diaries - 9th Battalion, Canadian Engineers," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>; accessed 16 October 2015)
- ⁹ Circumstance casualty "Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 13 October 2015), entry for Asa Prosser, Service number: 709501
- ¹⁰ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 647
- ¹¹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)
- ¹² "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=HITOFF&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)