



Name: Edwin Leigh Le Rossignol

Born: 17 July 1891, St Brelade, Jersey, Channel Islands

Parents: Philippe Le Rossignol and Mary Julie Le Fol

Brother of Wilfred John Le Rossignol, KIA France 2 Sep 1918.

Service: Served in the 60th Battalion Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force (CEF). Regiment No 458150. Attested at Montreal Canada 23 July 1915.

Served under the name Edwin Louis Le Rossignol

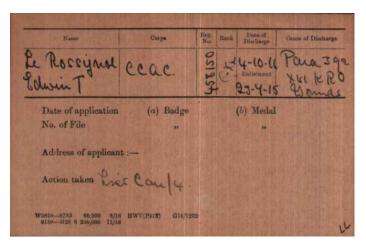
Wounded: Wounded in action Jun 2nd 1916 at Hooge during Battle of Mont Sorrel whilst serving with the 60th Btn. While on duty in the trenches he was hit by shrapnel causing a large wound above the left scapula. On 5th June 1916 he received medical treatment at No 22 General Hospital Camiers, and on the 10th June 1916 he was transferred to the Royal Free Hospital London. He was then transferred to the Canadian Convalescent Home Bromley on 25th August 1916.

Discharged from the Canadian Army

Discharged from the Canadian Army in England 4 Oct 1916

Cause of Discharge: Wounds King's Regulation O. 392 (xvi)

Silver War Badge issued 19 Jan 1917



Source: National Archives UK

The discharge finding of the medical board gives his disability and the reason for discharge as being "GSW of back (left side scapular area)". He had also suffered a haemothorax injury and was left with shrapnel, dullness and diminished capacity in his left lung.

Return to Canada Following Military Discharge:

It would appear from anecdotal records that Edwin returned to Jersey, Channel Islands after he was discharged from the Army. It would seem he visited his family and found employment as a clerk with a company (Robin, Jones and Whitman Ltd.) that had major business interests in Canada and primarily dealt with fish exports. The company arranged for Edwin to travel from Jersey to Canada on 4 May 1917 to commence employment in Quebec.

Reattested at Montreal in 1918:

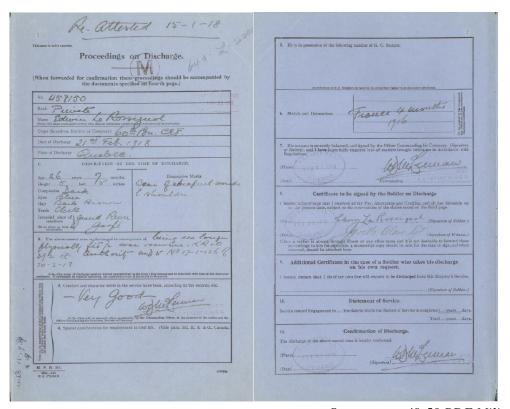
On the 1 Jan 1918 Edwin Le Rossignol reattested into the army at Montreal (possibly to obtain further medical treatment for his injury). He was sent for a medical examination with the SPCH on 15 Jan 1918 where he again reattested. The medical recommendation on his military file shows that he be readmitted to SPCH for treatment for disability, namely "Discharging S.W. left shoulder".

I have examined the above na	TE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION. med applicant and find that he should be re-admitted into
S.P.C.H.	for treatment for disability caused or aggravated by service.
Disability Discharging	ng S.W. left shoulder.
Date. 18-1-18	
Place S.P.C.H.	July Haden
1 100	Medical Officer.
CERTIFICATE	OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.
	OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.
Edwin L.	LeRossequel having been finally approved an
Edwin L. inspected by me this day, and his Nan	
Edwin L. inspected by me this day, and his Nan	Le Rosse Cleok having been finally approved an ne. Age, Date of Attoration, and every prescribed particular havin stied with the corpuspes of this Attestation.
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Source page 2 of PDF Military File

Second Military Discharge: 21 February 1918:

He was again discharged from the Military on the 21st Feb 1918 due to no longer being physically fit for war service.

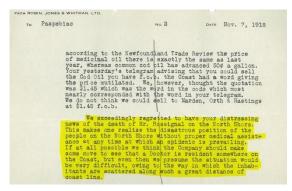


Source page 49-50 PDF Military File

Death: Riviere St Jean 5th November 1918 – death attributed to influenza but no medical certification.

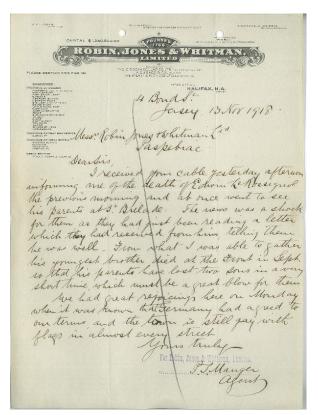
The company that employed Edwin had numerous offices in Canada including Grand River, Gaspe, which was the address Edwin gave when he attempted to reattest in 1918. The archived records of this company held in the Musee De La Gaspesie has provided some anecdotal information regarding Edwin's employment and the circumstances of his death. Following his death the company also finalised his affairs as he had no other family living in Canada at the time. His two surviving brothers were serving under the Canadian flag in Europe and his parents and sisters were living in St Brelade, Jersey, Channel Islands. From the correspondence it is obvious the company did not know Edwin's first or second name so it is unlikely anyone in the Company had knowledge of his previous war injuries or war service.

Anecdotal information from company records following the death of Edwin Le Rossignol express Mr Whitman's concern for the people living in Cote Nord due to the lack of medical care available in the region at the time.



Source: page 104 of PDF http://archives.museedelagaspesie.ca/robin/P8_1_1_2_2_127.pdf

There are further references in other documents including when his parents were notified in Jersey on the 12 November 1918. The news apparently came as a shock to them as they had only just received a letter from him saying he was well.



Source: page 43 of PDF http://archives.museedelagaspesie.ca/robin/P8_1_1_2_2_126.pdf

It took about a year for the company to finalise Edwin's affairs in Canada. His headstone was ordered by the company in April 1919. There are further anecdotal references in correspondence between Canada and Jersey in the Robin files relating to the finalizing of his affairs.

Grave located at Riviere St Jean, Cote Nord, Quebec, Canada

A request on social media to a history group in Riviere St Jean led to the discovery and confirmation of Edwin's place of death and the site of his burial. It would seem that he is buried on private land and is not buried in a cemetery. At the time of his death there was a local Catholic cemetery but as Edwin was Protestant he could not be buried there. The owner of the property where he is buried took the photograph below in November 2018.



The epitaph on Edwin Le Rossignol's grave reads:

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
EDWIN J. LE ROSSIGNOL
OF THE ISLAND OF JERSEY
BORN JULY 17TH 1891
DIED NOVEMBER 5TH 1918
HE WENT FORTH TO THE GREAT
WORLD WAR AND WOUNDED
HE RETURNED BUT TO FALL A VICTIM
OF THE TERRIBLE EPIDEMIC OF SPANISH
INFLUENZA

RIP"

(The middle initial in his name is incorrect)

Difficulties Obtaining Official Death Certificate:

The Directeur d'Etat Civil in Quebec was unable to provide a copy of Edwin Le Rossignol's death certificate because his death had not been registered properly in 1918 and was therefore "not valid in Quebec". The required documentation to register the death at the time had not been provided. They requested an original birth certificate in order for the records to be updated.

The Directeur D'Etat Civil issued a Death Certificate in January 2019 once the required information was received. The official death certificate records Edwin's place of death as New Carlisle; however it would seem this was the place where his death was registered by his employer, not where he actually died. Death Certificates or Act of Death documents have only ever given the date of death and never the cause of death in Quebec, Canada.

Submission for Commemoration to CWGC: A submission for Edwin Leigh Le Rossignol to be regarded as Commonwealth War Dead was lodged with the CWGC in March 2019 by Lara Pollard (great grand niece of Edwin Le Rossignol)

CWGC Decision: The CWGC advised in September 2020 that Edwin Leigh Le Rossignol has been accepted for commemoration by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission following the case being sent to Canada for adjudication.

In Memory Of Private

EDWIN LEIGH LE ROSSIGNOL

Service Number: 458150

60th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 05 November 1918 Age 27

Son of Philippe and Mary J. Le Rossignol, of St. Aubin, Jersey.

Remembered with Honour

CANADIAN BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

IIIIII
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
IIIIII

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Grave at Risk:

Edwin Le Rossignol's grave is currently located on a low headland in Riviere St Jean, Quebec which is at serious risk of sea inundation and erosion due to rising sea levels in the area. In March 2020 the issue was brought to the attention of Veterans Affairs Canada who committed to assessing the grave site with the intention of moving the grave to a Military Cemetery in Quebec, irrespective of the outcome of the CWGC submission. This work has been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

War Memorial Commemoration:

E. L. Le Rossignol is commemorated on the WW1 War Memorial at St Brelade, Jersey, Channel Islands along with his brother Wilfred John Le Rossignol.



Photos taken by Pollard Family 2019

St Brelade WW1 War Memorial

Military File

A PDF of Edwin Leigh Le Rossignol's military file can be downloaded from the following website: https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-worldwar/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=526373

The information in this PDF was researched by Lara Pollard and is made available to the Channel Islands Great War Study Group. (Acknowledgement to all sources has been provided where known.)

With thanks to Jason Cronin in Jersey for assisting in locating and obtaining the photograph of Edwin Leigh Le Rossignol's grave in Riviere St Jean, and for using his connections to bring the grave's precarious location to the attention of Veterans Affairs Canada.

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