



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

Name	Corps	Reg. No.	Rank	Date of Discharge	Cause of Discharge
Le Rossignol Edwin T	CCAC.	558150 458150	Private	4-10-16 Enlistment 23-4-15	Para 39a XVI K R O Wounds
Date of application	(a) Badge	(b) Medal			
No. of File	"	"			
Address of applicant :-					
Action taken <i>Ret Cou/4</i>					
<small>W5458-3753 60,000 8/16 HWY(P918) 016/1202 8189-1128 8 290,000 11/16</small>					

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".

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.	
I have examined the above named applicant and find that he should be re-admitted into S.P.C.H. for treatment for disability caused or aggravated by service.	
Disability <u>Discharging S.W. left shoulder.</u>	
Date <u>18-1-18</u>	
Place <u>S.P.C.H.</u>	<u>Sub. Adams</u> Medical Officer.
NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider that the applicant should not be re-admitted for further treatment, he will briefly state the reason for his decision.	
CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.	
<u>Edwin L. Le Rossignol</u> 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.	
Date <u>Jan. 15 1918</u>	<u>W. H. G. [Signature]</u> 1 HEUT (Signature of Officer)
S. P. C. H. UNIT M. I. C. C.	

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.

Re-Attested 15-1-18

Proceedings on Discharge.

(When forwarded for confirmation these proceedings should be accompanied by the documents specified on fourth page.)

No. *458150*

Rank: *Private*

Name: *Edwin Le Rossignol*

Corps (Squadron, Battery or Company): *60th Bn. CEF*

Date of Discharge: *21st Feb. 1918*

Place of Discharge: *Quebec*

I. DESCRIPTION AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE.

Age: <i>26</i> years <i>7</i> months	Discipline Marks
Height: <i>57</i> inches	<i>None</i>
Complexion: <i>Dark</i>	<i>Open forehead and</i>
Eyes: <i>Blue</i>	<i>shoulder.</i>
Hair: <i>Dark Brown</i>	
Trade: <i>Black</i>	
Intended place of residence: <i>Grand River</i>	
Is he able to take up his trade? <i>Yes</i>	

2. The above named man discharged in consequence of *being no longer physically fit to wear arms - RR 10 2/2 RR 10 2/2 Authority and 5 N^o 17-1-126 10 20-2-18*

3. Conduct and character while in the service have been, according to the records, etc. *Very Good*

4. Special qualifications for employment in civil life. (Wide pass. 341, E. R. & G., Canada.)

5. He is in possession of the following number of G. C. Badges:

6. Medals and Decorations: *France 4 months 1916*

7. His account is correctly balanced, and signed by the Officer Commanding his Company. (Signature of Officer, and I have signified my assent to all matters therein, in accordance with Regulations.)

8. Certificate to be signed by the Soldier on Discharge. I hereby acknowledge that I received all my Pay, Allowances and Clothing, and all just demands up to the present date, subject to the reservations of the claims noted on the third page.

9. Additional Certificate in the case of a Soldier who takes his discharge on his own request. I hereby declare that I do of my own free will request to be discharged from His Majesty's Service.

10. Statement of Service. Service toward Engagement to... the date to which the Record of Service is completed... years... days. Total... years... days.

11. Confirmation of Discharge. The discharge of the above-named man is hereby confirmed.

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, Gaspé, which was the address Edwin gave when he attempted to reattest in 1918. The archived records of this company held in the Musée De La Gaspésie 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.

FROM ROBIN, JONES & WHITMAN, LTD.
 To Paspebiac No. 2 DATE NOV. 7, 1918

according to the Newfoundland Trade Review the price of medicinal oil there is exactly the same as last year, whereas common cod oil has advanced 50¢ a gallon. Your yesterday's telegram advising that you could sell the Cod Oil you have f.o.b. the Coast had a word giving the price mutilated. We, however, thought the quotation was \$1.45 which was the word in the code which most nearly corresponded with the word in your telegram. We do not think we could sell to Marden, Orth & Hastings at \$1.45 f.o.b.

We exceedingly regretted to have your distressing news of the death of Mr. Rossignol on the North Shore. This makes one realize the disastrous position of the people on the North Shore without proper medical assistance at any time at which an epidemic is prevailing. If at all possible we think the Company should make some move to see that a Doctor is resident somewhere on the Coast, but even then we presume the situation would be very difficult, owing to the way in which the inhabitants are scattered along such a great distance of coast line.

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.

CAPITAL \$1,300,000
ROBIN, JONES & WHITMAN, LIMITED
 HALIFAX, N.S.

4 Bonds
 Jersey 13 Nov 1918

Messrs Robin Jones & Whitman Ltd
 Paspebiac

Dear Sirs,

I received your cable yesterday afternoon informing me of the death of Edwin Le Rossignol the previous morning, and at once went to see his parents at St. Belade. The news was a shock for them as they had just been reading a letter which they had received from him, telling them he was well. From what I was able to gather his youngest brother died at the front in Seph so that his parents have lost two sons in a very short time, which must be a great blow for them. We had great rejoicings here on Monday when it was known that Germany had agreed to our terms, and the town is still gay with flags in almost every street.

Yours truly
 J. Sillanger
 Agent

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



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES



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.

©Lara Pollard 2020