

Sergeant Andrew Winning M.M. (1886 -1917)



He was the son of William and Elizabeth Winning, of Neilston Scotland born on 18th of May 1886 and immigrated to Canada in the early part of the 20th century. He moved to Vancouver and in the pre-war construction boom found work as a mason. He was tall for the time at 5'10' tall and had striking blue eyes. As far as is known he was unmarried. Then came the war. On the 31st of January 1915 he was in the third Engineer draft to leave North Vancouver.

He sailed from Canada as a sapper and arrived in the UK on 29 April 1915. After further training in England he went to France and reported into the 6 Field Company Canadian Engineers in France in September of 1915. In less than 18 months he had been promoted to Corporal. In July of 1917 he was slightly wounded in the back by splinters from a German projectile fired at an Allied observation balloon near Dickebusch. On August 15 1917 was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. A month later he was made an Acting Sergeant and on September 5 1917 that promotion was confirmed. He fell on the 11th of November 1917 at Ypres:

"The 11th was alternately fine and showery. Lt Ball with 20 NCOs and sappers of No 2 section left Ypres in time to meet 50 pioneers of the 107th Bn at 430 AM, near Spree Farm. As the party was proceeding thence along a trail to Beecham it was heavily shelled. Sapper O.D. Cooper and a pioneer were instantly killed. Sgt Winning one of the finest types of NCO the company has ever had was hit in the spine and abdomen, dying shortly thereafter.... Winning is said to have had a presentiment, on Saturday night that he was for it the next time he went up the line."

From The Rideau to the Rhine and Back
The 6th Field Company and Battalion C.E. in the Great War

He is buried in the Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery 1.6 kilometres north of town of Ypres