

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Private Charles David Roberts

Charles David ROBERTS, son of **George ROBERTS** and **Catherine BURTON**, was born on 23 Apr 1888 in Ross Twp., Ontario. His parents were both born in neighboring Horton Twp., and were farming there in the 1881 census. By the time their second daughter was born in 1882, they lived in Ross Twp and remained there the rest of their lives. At least 8 children were born to this couple. Charles David was the 6th of the children. His attestation papers indicates that his birthplace was Grand Forks, North Dakota. There was no Ontario birth certificate found but that isn't unusual. Perhaps his parents took a trip to North Dakota but I didn't find any evidence of them living there. Charles David's siblings married into Ross Twp., families – Thompson, May, Hawthorne, Headrick, McLaughlin, and Pettigrew.¹



Image 1: Pte. Charles Roberts¹¹

C. D. Roberts enlisted on Jun 19, 1916 at Calgary, Alberta. He was 28 years old, 5' 5 ½ " tall and weighed 145 lbs. He was described as having a fair complexion, grey brown eyes, and dark hair. He listed his occupation as grain buyer. His next of kin was listed as his fiancée, Miss Louise MacFarlane, Mecheche, Alberta.²

Pte. Roberts trained with the 191st Battalion and embarked for England in Halifax on Mar 28, 1917. He proceeded to the field with the 50th Battalion (Alberta Regiment) on Jun 21, 1917. Three months later he was hospitalized suffering from gas poisoning but soon returned to duty.² On Aug 11, 1918, Pte. Charles David Roberts was killed in action near Hallu, Pas-de-Calais, France, at the age of 30.² The circumstances of death states:

"Killed in Action"

Hit in the abdomen by shrapnel and killed, during a slight withdrawal in the vicinity of Hallu.³

Pte. Charles David Roberts' name is engraved on the Vimy Memorial, Vimy Ridge, Pas-de-Calais, France.^{4,5,6} A cemetery stone was erected in Howard Cemetery, Forester's Falls.⁷ His name is memorialized on the Ross Township WWI Memorial Tablet located in Trinity United Church, Forester's Falls.⁸ Over 3,000 names of WWI soldiers from Calgary battalions including the 50th are engraved on the Calgary Soldiers Memorial.⁹



Image 2: Calgary Soldiers Memorial⁹

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Image 3: Ross Township Memorial Tablet⁸

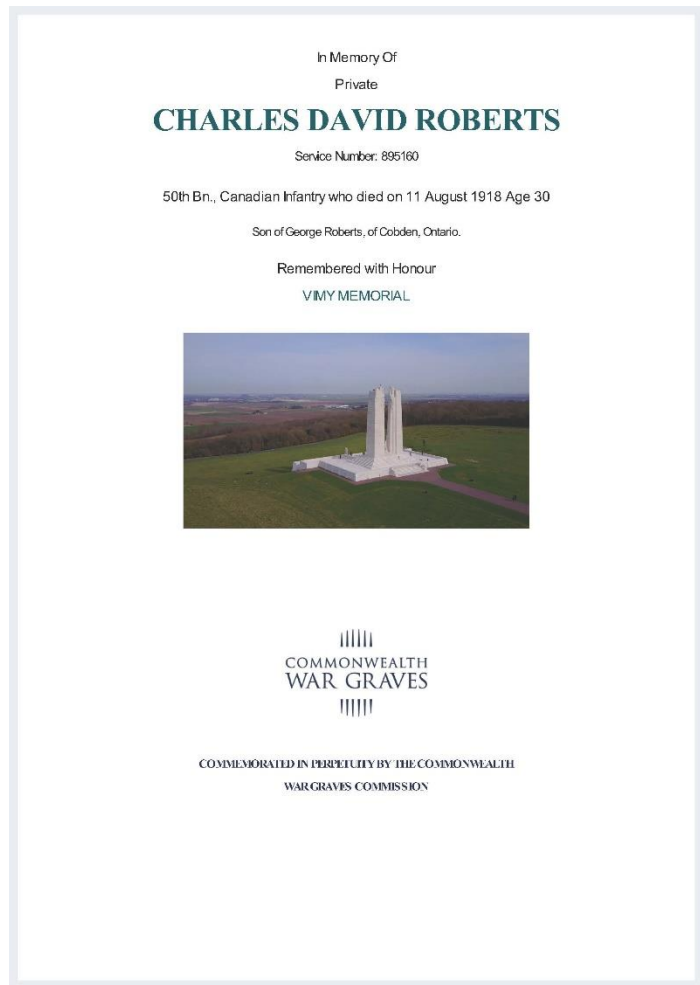


Image 4: Commonwealth War Graves Certificate⁵

Sources:

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3. "Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/circumstances-death-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageID=17957> go to 577 of 1468.

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5. CWGC. "Private Charles David Roberts War Casualty Details 1573575 CWGC." www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1573575/charles-david-roberts Accessed 15 Jan. 2023.
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8. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of Ross Township WWI Memorial Plaque*. Trinity United Church, Forester's Falls, Ontario, 2022.
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<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=492&book=1&sort=pageAsc>
11. *Photograph of Pte. Charles David Roberts*, Provided by Mary Ellen Horner.