



In Memory of Private Frank Furze - WWI

We believe that Private Frank Furze chose us to tell his story. I will do my best to tell his story and how we came to know him. Frank Furze was neither family nor friend of our family but we adopted our soldier boy, approximately 8 years ago, to be part of our family.

My brother, whose name is also Frank, was shopping at a plaza near our home in Mississauga when he noticed a shiny silver cross in the cracked asphalt in the parking lot. It was a Memorial Cross given to the wife or mother of a fallen soldier serving during WWI. When my brother showed me the medallion I did my research through Ancestry and the Veterans Affairs sights. I also discovered that the area of the shopping plaza was once a garbage dump. This made us sad to know that this cross was discarded like garbage.

Frank Furze was born in Leeds, England on October 24, 1895. Along with his mother Clara, they immigrated to Quebec, Canada from Leeds, England - I am not sure of the date. It appears from all the documents I discovered, they travelled alone to Canada. There was no other family members mentioned in any of the documents I found.

At a later date, they moved to Toronto and resided at 111 Ossington Avenue. We drove by the area to discover that this was his last known residence. The homes on this block were demolished and replaced by car wash/gas station.

Through his enlistment documents I found out that Frank was 19 years and 9 months old when he registered on July 26, 1915. He was 5 foot and 6 inches tall with fair complexion, grey eyes and a small mole on his back. His documents indicated that he worked as a labourer prior to enlisting and that he was a member of the Church of England.

Frank was enlisted with the Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment) 24th Battalion and was trained and shipped overseas. He died serving his country on September 29, 1916 along with many other young soldiers from his Regiment on that day. His grave is in the Regina Trench Cemetery in Somme, France. I believe he was in the battle of the Somme. His grave reference location is: II. C. 35 and his service number was: 171084. Frank, along with his fellow soldiers, had to endure unimaginable conditions in the trenches.

Frank, you will always be remembered.
Thank you for your service and may you rest in peace.
Frank and Mariann Cosentino

Foot Note: I was employed as an administrative assistant for the TDSB in 2013/14. I gave my notes and Frank's Memorial Cross to our history teacher to show his students as they were studying World War I. They were able to relate to Frank on a more personal level and to see he was not much older than they were.