

2156 Lance Corporal *Oswald Raymond Goodyear*

Teamster – Family Business

Enlisted: February 23, 1916, age 18yrs. 5 mos.

Parents: Josiah and Louisa Goodyear, Grand Falls, Nfld. Native of Ladle Cove, Fogo Dist, Nfld.

Religion: Methodist

Description:

- Height: 5ft. 8in.
- Chest expansion: 3in.

Service:

- Embarked St. John's, S.S. Sicilian, March 23, 1916 for the United Kingdom
- Joined regiment in France, July 21, 1916
- Promoted Lance Corporal August 24, 1916
- Killed in action October 12, 1916

Burial: Bancourt British Cemetery, France, Ref VIII, M5.

Notes:

In his book, The Danger Tree, David Macfarlane relates that, while underage, on two occasions, Ray (he preferred Ray to Oswald) had run away from home with the intention of joining the military. On the second occasion, he got as far as Port aux Basques before being apprehended by his father, Josiah. On his third attempt he outwitted his father into allowing him to enlist. At a town meeting called to drum up support for the war, Josiah Goodyear gave an impassioned plea to the young men of the town to enlist in support of their King and Country. Young Ray stepped forward and asked for his father's permission to enlist in front of the gathered group. (Macfarlane, pp.104-105)

Macfarlane also indicates that Lance Corporal Ray Goodyear's death was caused by a severe shrapnel wound. (pp.107)

In the dossier on Lance Corporal Goodyear, there is a photocopy of his grave site at Bancourt as it appeared in 1920. Also, there is correspondence from Mr. Josiah Goodyear, as follows:

*Grand Falls, Nfld.
Nov. 3, 1920*

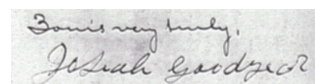
*Lt. Col. W. F. Rendell
St. John's*

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of photograph of the grave of my son, No. 2156 O.R. Goodyear. Delay in this acknowledgment is due to the fact that I have been absent from home for same time.

The instructions to which you refer have already been forwarded to you.

Thanking you for your interest in the matter.



Josiah Goodyear

Note: Also in the dossier on Lance Corporal Goodyear, there is a photocopy of a hand-written letter from his mother, Mrs. Louisa Goodyear, to the Hon. J.R. Bennett, Colonial Secretary, thanking him on her, and Josiah's behalf, for his letters of sympathy on the death of Lance Corporal Goodyear. (Nov. 17, 1916).