

Surname	Fleming
Forename	William
Initials	W
Age	
Honours/Awards	
Date died	05/11/1915
Rank	Private
Regiment	Canadian Regiment
Unit/Squadron	24 <sup>th</sup> Bn.
Service Number	65334
Cemetery/Memorial	Westouter Churchyard And Extension
Grave Reference	II.C.4.
Further Information	Son of Mrs. Williams of 35 Union Street, Egremont
	 <p>www.historyofwallasey.co.uk</p>

#### News Report

##### Shot On His First Trench Duty

Official news has been received of the death of Private William Fleming, whose mothers lives at 35, Union Street, Egremont, and whose brother, Sergeant Fleming, resides at 51, Byerley Street. Private William Fleming had been in Canada for the past five years and was one of the first to volunteer, for service, joining the 24th Battalion Victoria Rifles of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Sad to relate he was killed by rifle fire in his first experience of duty in the trenches.

Mrs. Fleming has received a letter from Lieutenant C.G. Greenshields, platoon officer who says :-

"We were in the front line trenches and a lot of repair work had to be done because of the wet weather which had caused a great deal of the earthwork to fall down. These repairs were absolutely necessary to enable us to hold the line and the men working had to be exposed to the fire of the enemy.

"Your son was doing his part nobly and bravely and was killed by enemy rifle fire. Although he did not die instantly he did not suffer but was unconscious from the moment he was hit until his death a few hours later.

"As you know, your son came out with the last draft, and this was his first tour of duty in the trenches. I was sorry when he was left behind at Sandling owing to illness, and very glad when he came out and joined us, because he was a man who always did his work cheerfully and well and in whom I had every confidence.

"He has given his life for our great cause and is buried in the military burying ground at Westoutre, with other heroes who have died for their King and Empire."

### References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission  
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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