

A 77

W.J. Thompson fonds

Original, 1 cm of textual records, 1898-1920

Scope and Content:

Series A 77/1/1 - reminiscence - 19 p.

A well organized memoir of a harsh childhood and of experiences in World War I. Gives intelligent insights into training and battlefields in France including a vivid description of the battles of the Somme and Vimy Ridge, and the shooting of a German prisoner who refused to carry a litter. Mentioned are poet the Rev. Canon Scott, Cecil King (social activist minister from Fort William), Japanese soldiers in France, and work in hospitals in Britain. Epilogue contains information about the founding of the Ontario Public Health Laboratory in Fort William.

Biographical Sketch:

Sgt. W.J. Thompson was born in 1899 in Bruce County, Ontario, but was orphaned and sent to live in Manitoba. He later ran away, joined the army (the 82nd battalion) on 16 Sept. 1915 in Calgary, and served in France during the First World War. After the war he came to Fort William where he worked as a lab technician. Later in life both he and his wife, Florence, were active in Wesley Church and in the Thunder Bay Naturalist Club.

Additional Information:

Related Material - See also photograph collection.