

Soldier Profile Summary: James Sumlar

James Sumlar was born in Windsor Essex County, Ontario, on March 1st, 1898, and seemed to live in Windsor until he enlisted. Sumlar was a labourer until he enlisted in the Canadian Army on September 11th, 1916, entering with the rank of Private. The only next of Kin Sumlar was his mother, Emily Sumlar; however, after the war, it is clear he went on to marry a Mrs. Ethel Sumlar. Although the documents attributed to James Sumlar state he was discharged for demobilization on March 22nd, 1919, his rank stayed the same, meaning he left the army as a Private. He was in excellent health entering the war and left the war with a minor shrapnel wound on his left arm because of a battle. After the war, he returned to his mother's house and eventually married Ethel. The two seemed to live a long life together until Ethel Sumlar sent in an official statement stating James had died in 1962, making him 64 years old at the time of his death. Unfortunately, no information could be found on any database regarding his cause of death.

It proved to be challenging to find information on James Sumlar within the Canadian Databases. Attempted searches on Ancestry and the Canadian Military Memorials Database came up empty. Our primary source of information was found on the Library and Archives Canada website. There we found the pages that remained from his personnel file. On these, you can find his enlistment papers, medical papers, pay stubs and discharge papers and his notice of death. It was clear Sumlar moved to the United States with his wife after the war, to the lack of information found on Canadian archive websites leads one to believe he remained in the United States until he passed. When researching James Sumlar, the best file for information is found on the Library

and Archives Canada Website or the new OCDSB Soldier Profile. We also found it difficult at times to read the handwriting on the documents. Often it was smudged, or the cursive was hard to decipher. Some more advice for students that will be doing this project is to either have two screens or if they are working with a partner to take advantage of the second computer. We found it much easier to have one person filling out the OCDSB soldier profile and one person finding the information needed on the personnel files. This was much easier than clicking back and forth on the same screen and the process was much faster this way. Recommendations to find more information on James Sumlar would be to have an Ancestry subscription. There is a chance if we had access to the documents found behind the paywall, we could have found more information on James. We searched through some American databases but had very little access to any documents on them, some more research in American databases may give more insight on his life after the war.

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