

CAMPBELL, NORMAN EARL



King Library

FOR THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF HIS LIFE:

The Earl Campbell Story

Messages from the Trenches of the Great War

EARLY LIFE

Mar 22, 1895

Born in King, Ontario to Jerome Jacob and Martha (McMurchy) Campbell. He was the younger brother of *Harold Jerome Campbell* and the older brother of *Archibald Albert Campbell*.

1901 Census

Age 6

Lived in King, Ontario with Jerome Campbell (father, age 45), Martha Campbell (mother, age 42), Colin Campbell (brother, age 24), Ruth Campbell (sister, age 22), Mary Campbell (sister, age 20), Muriel Campbell (sister, age 16), Martha Campbell (sister, age 15), Harold Campbell (brother, age 8), Archibald Campbell (brother, age 4) and Mary Campbell (sister, age 1).

1911 Census

Age 16

Lived in King, Ontario with Jerome Campbell (head of house – father, age 55), Martha Campbell (sister, age 24), Harold Campbell (brother, age 18), Archibald Campbell (brother, age 14), Mary Campbell (sister, age 10) and Flossie Campbell (sister, age 8).

MILITARY SERVICE

Feb 17, 1916

Attested to the 127th Battalion York Rangers, Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force

Attestation
Paper

- **Number:** 779051
- **Present address:** King, Ontario
- **Next of kin given:** Jerome Jacob Campbell (Father) of King, Ontario
- **Trade or calling:** Farmer
- **Married:** No
- **Previous military experience:** Yes – 12th Regiment, York Rangers
- **Religion:** Methodist
- **Physical attributes:**
 - **Age:** 20 years
 - **Height:** 5'11"
 - **Complexion:** Ruddy
 - **Eyes:** Blue
 - **Hair:** Black

Aug 30, 1916

Age 20

Arrived in Liverpool, England.

Jan 13, 1917

Age 21

Landed in France.

Jul 19, 1917

Age 21

Gunshot wound in the head in Camiers, France.

Jul 12, 1919

Age 23

Sapper Earl Campbell was discharged because of demobilization. In addition, he had the partial loss of function of abdominal wall. He had a dagger tattoo on his left forearm and a ship badge 127th Battalion tattoo.

AFTER THE WAR

1921 Census

Age 26

Lived in King, Ontario with Jerome Campbell (head of house – father, age 65), Martha Campbell (mother, age 60), Archibald Campbell (brother, age 24), Mary Campbell (sister, age 19) and Flossie Campbell (sister, age 17).

Nov 9, 1925

Age 30

Married Hazel Mildred Gambrill (age 23), daughter of Frank Robert Jesse and Rachel (Booke) Gambrill of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Ontario. At the time of the wedding Earl Campbell worked as a farmer and Hazel Gambrill worked as a bookkeeper. They lived at W ½ of Lot 8, Con. 4, King Township, Ontario. They had 5 daughters: Clara, Gloria, Gerry, Earlene and Shirley Campbell.

Mar 14, 1971

Age 75

Earl died at his home, R.R. No. 1, in King City, Ontario. He is buried at the King City Cemetery in King City, Ontario.

IN THE NEWS

Exploding Rifle Shells

The Toronto Star

Monday, May 10, 1954, pg. 25

Obituary

The Toronto Star

Monday, March 15, 1971 pg. 35

**Braves Exploding Shells
Quells Fire in Kitchen
Hold Daughter's Friend**

King City, May 10—While his two daughters, Clair, 24, and Jerry, 18, raced back and forth in their bare feet with buckets of water from a spring, Earl Campbell braved 100 exploding rifle shells Sunday and brought under control a fire in a kitchen cabinet.

A third daughter, Earlene, 22, a nurse-in-training, was absent from the home at the time the fire broke out.

Police shortly afterwards arrested James Thomas Ransom, 26, of Aurora and charged him with having an unlicensed, loaded Luger pistol. The fire marshal's department was called in to investigate the fire. Ransom is a former friend of Earlene Campbell.

Ransom, a farm laborer, worked near the Campbell farm on the Fifth concession of King township.

Heard Explosion

Campbell said he was awakened early Sunday by an explosion in the kitchen. "At first I thought someone was shooting from outside," Campbell said. "Then I smelled the smoke and gunpowder and ran to the kitchen."

He said bullets were crashing all over the room. While Mrs. Campbell ran across the fields to a neighbor's home to call firemen, the two daughters carried water from the spring.

"I wouldn't let them come near because of the exploding bullets," Campbell said.

CAMPBELL, Norman Earl—At his home, R. R. No. 1, King City, on Sunday, March 14, 1971, Earl Campbell, beloved husband of Hazel Gambrill, dear father of Gloria (Mrs. Ray Love), Shirley (Mrs. A. Crossley), Clara (Mrs. D. McDaniel), Earlene (Mrs. D. King), and Jerry (Mrs. J. Bandow), in his 76th year. Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home, 29 Victoria St., Aurora. Service in the chapel on Wednesday, March 17 at 2 p.m. Interment King City Cemetery.