

J. Ronald Chapman

James Ronald Chapman, nicknamed "Chip," was the son of Louis Chapman and Elizabeth Vance, and was born in Galt, Ontario, on October 30, 1894. While a child he attended Galt Public School and began attending the Galt Collegiate Institute in 1907. He graduated three years later, and then matriculated with honours in 1912 when he went to the University of Toronto to study electrical engineering. While at university, he switched to study mechanical engineering, became associated with the Psi Delta Psi fraternity, and was president of the Electrical Club. He was granted his fourth year when he enlisted in March 1916 with the 49th Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery.



In September 1916, Chapman went overseas and eventually made his way to France the following March, serving first with the 9th and then the 11th Batteries. He was present at the Battle of Vimy Ridge and subsequent engagements in Hill 70.

On October 28, 1917, at Passchendaele, Chapman was fatally wounded when a shell struck the gun while he was answering SOS calls. Four others had been killed instantly, and his college friend R. R. Hawkey likewise was fatally wounded. Chapman succumbed to his wounds three days later, on October 31st, having just turned twenty-three the day before.

Sources:

Canadian Virtual War Memorial, accessed April 15, 2016, <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/136424?James%20Ronald%20Chapman>; Galt Collegiate Institute Honour Roll, Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School (GCI Archives), Cambridge; G. Oswald Smith, "James Ronald Chapman," *University of Toronto roll of service, 1914-1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1921), p. 24; *Torontonensis: The Year Book of the Graduates of the University of Toronto*, vol. 18 (Toronto: University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council, 1916), p. 125; World War I Newspaper Clippings, GCI Archives.

Photograph of Ronald Chapman, 1910 (GCI Archives).