

NAME: BROWN, William

PARISH: [Hartlepool*], England

ENTERED SERVICE: 15 Sept. 1919

**DATES: b. 23 April 1883 –
d. 8 August 1936**

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
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*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May

1919, 15 Sept.	Signed contract for general service	[Fort Hope]	Lake Superior	RG3/40A/2 fo.55
1920, 15 Sept.	Signed contract as clerk & assistant	[Fort Hope]	Lake Superior	RG3/40A/2 fo.55
1921, 6 Aug.	Retired [dismissed]	[Fort Hope]	Lake Superior	A.81/29, p. 2

*His service record indicates that William Brown was born in London, England; however, his birth certificate confirms that he was born in Hartlepool, England.

SEARCH FILE: Brown, William
(1883-1936); Corr., 2001

Before the 3-year contract was completed, Brown was “discharged owing to having blown up the store through smoking cigarettes while handling gunpowder”. (see below for further details on the explosion)

RG3/40A/2 fo.55

At the time of his employment (1919-1921), Brown was married and had four children.

RG3/40A/2 fo. 55

Noted in “Minutes of Meeting of the Canadian Advisory Committee Held in Winnipeg on the 21st October, 1920,” under the Fur Trade Department as “Explosion Fort Hope.” The meeting minutes report that: “Fur Trade Commissioner reported serious explosion at Fort Hope Post, Lake Superior District, which resulted in serious injuries to one of the Company’s clerks [Brown] and three Indians. Medical assistance was immediately sent to Fort Hope. Committee learned of accident with regret and await further news as to condition of injured persons.”

RG2/1/2

Fort Hope post fire mentioned in 1921 and 1922 annual reports for the Lake Superior District by District Manager, John Duncan McKenzie.

A.74/50, p. 115; A.74/51, p. 110

Brown, William (1883-1936), p. 2

Parrott erroneously situates the above-noted explosion at Osnaburgh House, and that Brown was post manager. However, Brown's record of service, as well as *Committee Minutes*, confirm that the explosion occurred at Fort Hope post, where Brown, in fact, was a clerk.

By the late 1920s, Brown and his business partner, Mike Kressall, were operating a general store at Red Lake, in competition with the Hudson's Bay Company's post. The Company's Annual Report for 1929 comments upon the competition posed by this former Company servant.

Drowned in Ball Township, at the west end of Red Lake, Ontario, on August 8, 1936 at age 53.

Parrott, Donald F.
The Red Lake Gold Rush.
Steinbach, MB: Derksen Printers,
1964 (with several reprints);
Richthammer, John. *The End of
the Road: A History of the Red
Lake District*. Altona, MB:
Friesen, 1985.

A.74/43-7, p.7

SEARCH FILE: Brown, William
(1883-1936); Corr., 1996; Corr., 2001

