



Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial

In memory of

Coolie

Chin T'ai Lei

who died on 18 Jan 1920

Service details

<i>Conflict</i>	WWI
<i>Service</i>	Chinese Labour Battalion
<i>Unit</i>	Chinese Labour Battalion
<i>Rank</i>	Coolie
<i>Service number</i>	24898
<i>Date of death</i>	19200118
<i>Cause of death</i>	died of non-combat causes

Narrative history

24898 Coolie (Chinese Labour Battalion) Lue Chen Tai died 19200118 (age 34) and is buried in the soldiers' plot at Regina cemetery. Tai was removed from CPR's "Coolie Special" No. 2047 en route to Vancouver, British Columbia, and taken to Regina General hospital where he died of pneumonia.

The foregoing is taken from the burials register at Library & Archives Canada. British researcher Gregory James is compiling a Roll of Honour, a detailed census of Chinese casualties in WWI. He advises that in the medal roll of the Corps his full name is given as Lei Chin T'ai in the Chinese style of surname first. More modern usage would be Lei Jintai.

The Imperial and Canadian governments engaged thousands of Chinese coolies to work in the trenches in France and Belgium during World War I. Most of them were recruited from the northern provinces of Shandong and Heibei and shipped out to Europe from the British enclave at Weiheiwai on the Shandong peninsula. They crossed the Pacific on ocean liners, crossed Canada by train, then repeated their ocean voyage to get to Europe. The process was reversed when they were sent home after the war. The coolies were tightly controlled by the military while they were in Canada (they were not allowed off the trains), and it was Mr. Lei's misfortune to fall ill as they passed through Regina. Interestingly the stone that marks Lei's resting place was provided by the Imperial War Graves Commission and is inscribed Lue.

Memorial information

<i>Saskatchewan rural municipality for commemoration</i>	159 - Sherwood
<i>Grave or memorial location</i>	Regina cemetery (Link to Commonwealth War Graves Commission web page: http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2081905/REGINA%20CEMETERY)
<i>Honour roll location(s)</i>	-----
<i>Geo-memorial</i>	-----
<i>Geo-memorial NTS map reference</i>	-----



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Personal information

<i>Date of birth</i>	1885
<i>Place of birth</i>	China
<i>Enlisted on</i>	unk
<i>Place of enlistment</i>	China
<i>Residence on enlistment</i>	China
<i>Occupation</i>	labourer

Links to external web pages

[CGWP](#)

<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/searches/soldierDetail.asp?ID=163649>

[Find a grave](#)

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=TAI&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GScntry=10&GSob=n&GRid=27364997&df=all&>

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