Leon Valcourt (1895—1918)

Lewis Hine was visiting Lawrence for the first time.

Leon P. Valcourt was born in Lawrence on February 23, 1895. The circumstances of his birth are shrouded in mystery, and his early life is not well-documented. According to the Massachusetts laws at that time, the minimum age for workers was 14. The following year, after spending the summer investigating child labor in Maine, and western and central Massachusetts, Hine returned to Lawrence in September and took over 50 additional pictures at the Lawrence mills.

On this November day, it is 14 months before thousands of strikers will pour out into the streets and make history. Standing at the edge of the Lawrence's North Canal with a pal or fellow worker, Leon looks weary, or perhaps just uncomfortable at being photographed. In his idle moments, Leon might have been contemplating his future. Two additional names added to the local list, for the casualty of Lieut. George W. Ryley was chronicled in the morning papers.

Monday's casualty list carried the names of Lieut. Ryley and Henry Workcamp of Methuen, who is also reported as having been killed in action. The families of two 23rd infantry, Leon P. (Jean) Valcourt, 22 Nesmith Street and John Podmomet, 14 Currier St have received official notification from the war department that those lads have died for the cause. Valcourt died of wounds, while Podmomet was killed in action. Podmomet was the first representative of the Polish people in Lawrence to die in service.

Valcourt's death is pathetic for it was only Saturday the Tribune published a letter from Augustine D. Ragan in which he said and Valcourt were the only two West End boys to be on the firing line in France. The others, Clifton Smith, Frank McNulty, Hector LeFleur, Thomas J. Stephens, and Fred (?) Harrison were end boys to be on the firing line in France. The others, Clifton Smith, Frank McNulty, Hector LeFleur, Thomas J. Stephens, and Fred (?) Harrison were end boys to be on the firing line in France. The others, Clifton Smith,Frank McNulty, Hector LeFleur, Thomas J. Stephens, and Fred (?) Harrison were end boys to be on the firing line in France. The others, Clifton Smith, Frank McNulty, Hector LeFleur, Thomas J. Stephens, and Fred (?) Harrison were end boys to be on the firing line in France. The others, Clifton Smith, Frank McNulty, Hector LeFleur, Thomas J. Stephens, and Fred (?) Harrison were end boys to be on the firing line in France. The others, Clifton Smith, Frank McNulty, Hector LeFleur, Thomas J. Stephens, and Fred (?) Harrison were end boys to be on the firing line in France. The others, Clifton Smith, Frank McNulty, Hector LeFleur, Thomas J. Stephens, and Fred (?) Harrison were end boys to be on the firing line in France.

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