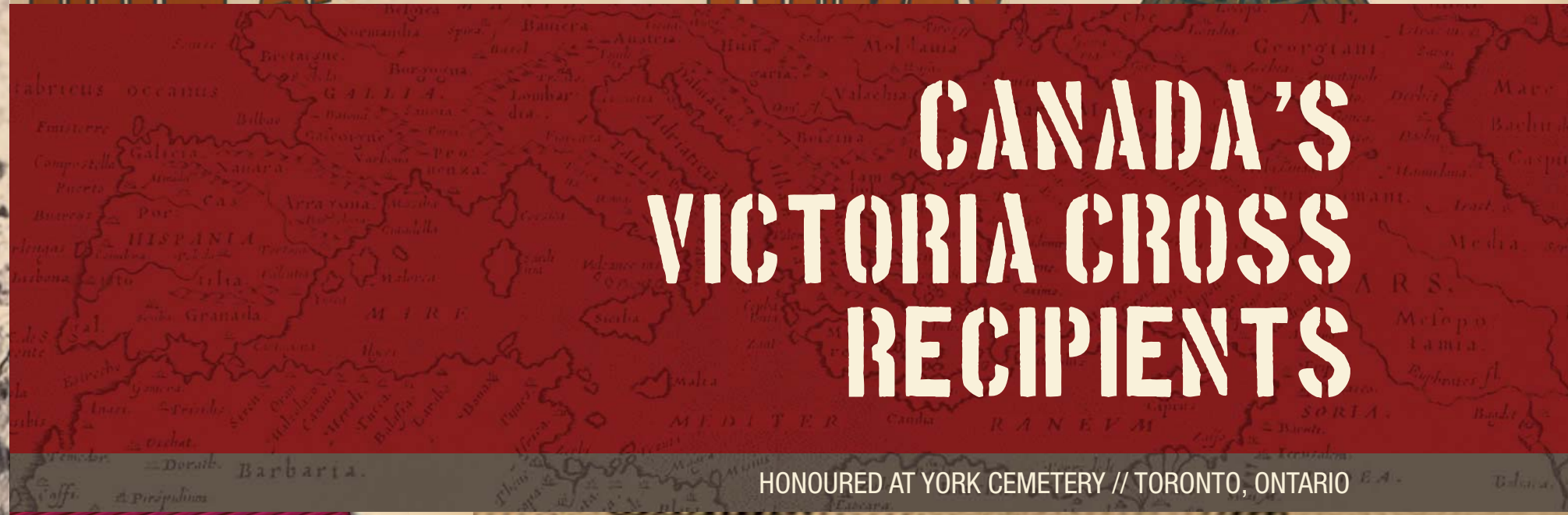




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# CANADA'S VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS

HONOURED AT YORK CEMETERY // TORONTO, ONTARIO





# CANADA'S VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS

HONOURED AT YORK CEMETERY  
TORONTO, ONTARIO

IN CELEBRATION OF CANADA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

To view or download an electronic version of this book, please visit [www.mountpleasantgroup.com/VCmemorial](http://www.mountpleasantgroup.com/VCmemorial)





THE VICTORIA CROSS, which was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1856, is the Commonwealth's premier military decoration for gallantry. It was created to honour "most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy."

A recommendation for the Victoria Cross was usually issued by an officer at the regimental level, or equivalent, supported by three witnesses. It was subsequently passed up the chain of command to the secretary of state for defence and then presented to the reigning monarch to sign. Some awards were bestowed posthumously. All citations were published in the *London Gazette*.

The bronze cross pattée was originally made from the metal of two Russian cannons captured at the Siege of Sevastopol (1854–55) during the Crimean War. The pattée is decorated with the Royal Crown surmounted by a lion guardant. Below it is a scroll with the words "FOR VALOUR." The recipient's rank, name, and regiment were engraved on the reverse of the mounting bar and a ribbon added.

Canada's recipients total 99, including some who were attached to the forces of other Commonwealth countries as well as non-Canadians serving in Canadian units.

The Mount Pleasant Group graciously thanks **Veterans Affairs Canada, Department of National Defence,** and **Library and Archives Canada** for their contribution to this book. Any other image sources are included in the credits section on page 208.



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Harvey Lodge Joseph

DOUGLAS, Dr Campbell Mellis

DUNN, Alexander Roberts

HALL, William Neilson Edward

READE, Herbert Taylor





# PRIOR TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR



1854-1881

# RAYMOND HARVEY LODGE JOSEPH DE MONTMORENCY



NAME  
DE MONTMORENCY,  
Raymond Harvey Lodge Joseph

RANK  
Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH  
5 February 1867

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Montreal, Lower Canada (Quebec)

ENLISTMENT DATE  
September 1887

UNIT  
Lincolnshire Regiment, British Army

DATE OF DEATH  
23 February 1900

PLACE OF DEATH  
Dordrecht, Cape Colony, South Africa

**R**aymond Harvey Lodge Joseph de Montmorency was born on 5 February 1867 in Montreal, Lower Canada (Quebec), the eldest son of Raymond Harvey de Montmorency, 3rd Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency, and his wife, Rachel, the daughter of Field Marshal Sir John Michel, a major-general in the British Army. The senior de Montmorency served during the Crimean War (1854–55), the Indian Mutiny (1857–58), and the Anglo-Abyssinian War of 1868, attaining the rank of major-general.

Very little is known about de Montmorency's years in Canada. He was educated at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, England, and then attended the Royal Military College, from which he graduated in 1887. He joined the Lincolnshire Regiment in September of the same year. He was promoted to lieutenant with the 21st Lancers in November 1889 and then appointed adjutant in 1893.

While still a lieutenant, de Montmorency served during the Sudan Campaign (1881–99) and was in action on 2 September 1898 during the Battle of Omdurman (also known as the Battle of Khartoum of 1898, to avoid confusion with the Battle or Siege of Khartoum of 1884–85).

Aside from receiving the Victoria Cross, de Montmorency was awarded the Khedive's Sudan Medal with clasp. He was also mentioned in dispatches. In August 1898, de Montmorency was promoted to the rank of captain. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the famed British author and creator of Sherlock Holmes, called de Montmorency "one of the most promising of the younger officers of the British Army."

Captain de Montmorency was killed in action on 23 February 1900 in Dordrecht, Cape Colony, South Africa, at the Battle of Stormberg, during the South African (Boer) War of 1899 to 1902. He is buried in Molteno Cemetery in Dordrecht, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

15 NOVEMBER, 1898

At the Battle of Khartum on the 2nd September, 1898, Lieutenant de Montmorency, after the charge of the 21st Lancers, returned to assist Second Lieutenant R. G. Grenfell, who was lying surrounded by a large body of Dervishes. Lieutenant de Montmorency drove the Dervishes off,

and, finding Lieutenant Grenfell dead, put the body on his horse which broke away. Captain Kenna and Corporal Swarbrick then came to his assistance, and enabled him to rejoin the Regiment, which had begun to open a heavy fire on the enemy.

*(London Gazette, November 15, 1898)*



"CHARGE OF THE 21ST LANCERS AT OMDURMAN,"  
2 SEPTEMBER 1898, BY EDWARD MATTHEW HALE.

# CAMPBELL MELLIS DOUGLAS



NAME

DOUGLAS, Campbell Mellis

RANK

Major

DATE OF BIRTH

5 August 1840

PLACE OF BIRTH

Grosse Île, Lower Canada (Quebec)

ENLISTMENT DATE

1862

UNIT

2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot,  
British Army

DATE OF DEATH

30 December 1909

PLACE OF DEATH

Hollington, England

Campbell Mellis Douglas was born on Grosse Île, Lower Canada (Quebec), on 5 August 1840 and was educated at St John's College and Laval University. He later attended the Edinburgh School of Medicine. In 1861, he earned his Doctor of Medicine degree and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Douglas joined the British Medical Service in 1862 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Regiment of Foot at Rangoon (also known as Yangon), in Burma. By 1867, he had risen to the rank of major.

Douglas served as the assistant surgeon in charge of a party of four privates of the 24th Regiment (later South Wales Borderers) who were involved in a rescue at sea of 17 men during a storm in May 1867. For his valour, Douglas was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Douglas later achieved the rank of lieutenant-colonel and served on the Northwest Frontier in India. He retired from the British military in 1882 and settled in Lakefield, Ontario, where he opened a private practice. He married and raised four children. He was recruited for service as a medical officer during the North-West Rebellion in 1885, where he further distinguished himself, arriving in time to treat those injured in the Battle of Fish Creek on 3 May and during the Battle of Batoche on 14 May.

Douglas retired to England in 1894. He died at Hollington, Somerset, on 30 December 1909.

For the actions that earned him the Victoria Cross, Douglas was also awarded the Silver Medal of the Royal Humane Society. His medals are in the collection of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, Ontario.





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

17 DECEMBER, 1867

For the very gallant and daring manner in which, on the 7th of May, 1867, they risked their lives in manning a boat and proceeding through a dangerous surf to the rescue of some of their comrades, who formed part of an expedition which had been sent to the Island of Little Andaman, by order of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, with the view of ascertaining the fate of the Commander and seven of the crew of the ship 'Assam Valley,' who had landed there, and were supposed to have been murdered by the natives.

The officer who commanded the troops on the occasion reports : 'About an hour later in the day, Dr. Douglas, 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment, and the four Privates referred to, gallantly manning the second gig, made their way through the surf almost to the shore, but finding their boat was half filled with water, they retired. A second attempt made by Dr. Douglas and party proved successful, five

of us being safely passed through the surf to the boats outside. A third and last trip got the whole of the party left on shore safe to the boats.

It is stated that Dr. Douglas accomplished these trips through the surf to the shore by no ordinary exertion. He stood in the bows of the boat, and worked her in an intrepid and seamanlike manner, cool to a degree, as if what he was then doing was an ordinary act of every-day life. The four Privates behaved in an equally cool and collected manner, rowing through the roughest surf when the slightest hesitation or want of pluck on the part of any one of them would have been attended by the gravest results. It is reported that seventeen officers and men were thus saved from what must otherwise have been a fearful risk, if not certainty of death.

*(London Gazette, December 17, 1867)*



# ALEXANDER ROBERTS DUNN



NAME

DUNN, Alexander Roberts

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

15 September 1833

PLACE OF BIRTH

York (Toronto), Upper Canada (Ontario)

ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1852

UNIT

11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars,  
British Army

DATE OF DEATH

25 January 1868

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Senafe, Abyssinia (Eritrea)

Alexander Roberts Dunn was born on 15 September 1833 in York (renamed Toronto the following year), Upper Canada, the first son of John Henry Dunn, the receiver general of Upper Canada. He attended Upper Canada College. Following the death of his mother, and after his father had moved the family to England, he attended Harrow School in London.

In March 1852, Dunn joined the British Army's 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars as a junior officer. At the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1854, the 11th Hussars were sent to Russia to join other elements of the British Army and an allied force made up elements from France, the Kingdom of Sardinia, and the Ottoman Empire.

Dunn, now a lieutenant, was in action on 25 October 1854, the day of the Battle of Balaclava, and took part in the infamous Charge of the Light Brigade.

Dunn was among the very first group to be awarded the newly created Victoria Cross, which was generally believed to be have been made from Russian cannons captured during the Crimean War. In fact, Dunn is considered the first Canadian recipient. He was also the only officer to be given a Victoria Cross for bravery during the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Dunn sold out his commission at the end of the Crimean War, returned to Toronto in 1856, and began managing his family's estate north of the city. However, the Indian Mutiny began in 1857, and Dunn helped organize the 100th (Prince of Wales' Royal Canadian) Regiment of Foot, a British unit raised in Canada in which he served as major.

In 1864, Dunn transferred to the 33rd Regiment of Foot and was promoted to the rank of colonel, becoming the first Canadian to command a British regiment and the youngest colonel, at the time, in the British Army. In 1868, Dunn and his regiment were sent to the Horn of Africa to take part in the Expedition to Abyssinia.



Dunn was killed on 25 January 1868 in unusual circumstances during a hunting expedition near Senafe, in present-day Eritrea, before the military part of the war had even begun. His gravesite went largely forgotten until the last days of the Second World War, when it was found by a British officer. Apparently, the Italians, who were allied with the Germans during the war and therefore fighting against the Canadian and British armies, had cared for Dunn's grave during the war years.

For nearly half a century, Dunn's medals were on display in the main hall of his old school, Upper Canada College in Toronto. In 1977, the school replaced the Victoria Cross with a copy and moved the original to a safety deposit box. Dunn's sword and field chair are on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, Ontario.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

24 FEBRUARY, 1857

For having in the Light Cavalry charge on the 25th October, 1854, saved the life of Sergeant Bentley, 11th Hussars, by cutting down two or three Russian Lancers who were attacking him from the rear, and afterwards cutting down a Russian Hussar, who was attacking Private Levett, 11th Hussars.

*(London Gazette, February 24, 1857)*



LIGHT BRIGADE, CANTON WOODVILLE

# WILLIAM NEILSON EDWARD HALL



NAME  
HALL, William Neilson Edward

RANK  
Able Seaman

DATE OF BIRTH  
28 April 1827

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Horton's Bluff, Nova Scotia

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1852

UNIT  
Royal Navy

DATE OF DEATH  
25 August 1904

PLACE OF DEATH  
Hantsport, Nova Scotia

William Neilson Edward Hall was born in Horton's Bluff, Nova Scotia, on 28 April 1827, the son of free Black slaves who had been rescued from slavery by a British frigate during the War of 1812. Hall attended the local school and then for several years worked in the shipyards of Hantsport, where he became involved in the construction of wooden ships for the merchant marine. Before he was even 18 years old, he had already been to some of the most important ports in the world, having joined the crew of a trading vessel.

In 1852, Hall left a promising career in the American merchant navy to enlist in the British Royal Navy. He served as an able seaman on board HMS *Rodney* during the Crimean War, and was awarded the Turkish Crimea medal as well as the British Crimea medal with the Sevastopol and Inkerman clasps. He was a member of the Naval Brigade and assisted the ground forces by manning heavy guns.

Before the Indian Mutiny of 1857–58, he was appointed captain of the foretop on board HMS *Shannon*. As the ship was on its way to China in anticipation of a Chinese insurrection, it received orders to turn around and head to Calcutta (now Kolkata), India. Hall and a brigade of soldiers were to go to Lucknow to relieve the British garrison, which was under siege.

Hall was a member of one of four gun crews. On 16 November 1857, he and his colleagues were attempting to breach the walls of the Shah Najaf mosque as rebels shot at them. The enemy concentrated its fire on the gun crews until Hall and an officer, Lieutenant James Young, were the only ones left. They continued to load and fire the last gun until the wall was breached, giving the soldiers of the British garrison enough room to scramble through.

Hall was the first Nova Scotian, and the first Black person, to receive the Victoria Cross. He retired from the service in 1876 with the rank of petty officer, 1st class. He moved back to Nova Scotia and lived with his sisters on a farm in Avonport, overlooking the Minas Basin.

Hall lived in relative obscurity until 1901, when His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cornwall and York, the future King George V, visited Nova Scotia to unveil a monument. A parade was held in the duke's honour,



and Hall was in attendance with his Victoria Cross and other service medals pinned to his jacket. The duke noticed this and enquired about the medals, opening a conversation between the two men.

William Neilson Edward Hall died of paralysis in Hantsport on 25 August 1904. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Lockhart, without military honours. In 1937, a campaign was launched to have William Hall recognized by the Royal Canadian Legion, and it was not until 1954 that his remains were reinterred in the grounds of the Hantsport Baptist Church. A cairn was erected in his honour two years later by the Hantsport branch of the Royal Canadian Legion; it includes an enlarged bronze replica of Hall's Victoria Cross and a plaque describing his actions and devotion to duty.

In 1967, Hall's medals were returned to Canada from England to be shown at Expo '67 in Montreal. For a number of years, his Victoria Cross and other medals were lent to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Today, they are on display at the Nova Scotia Museum in Halifax.

Hall's Victoria Cross was worn on a blue ribbon to represent the Royal Navy, whereas the Victoria Cross with crimson ribbon was awarded to members of the armed forces. Since 1918, however, all Victoria Crosses have been worn on the crimson ribbon.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

1 FEBRUARY, 1859

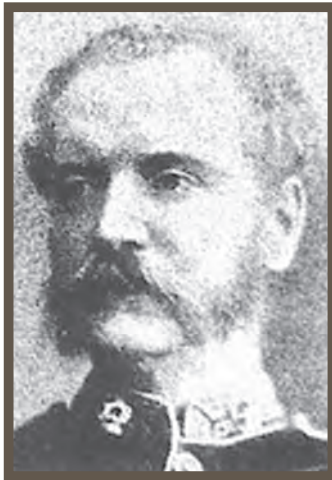
Lieutenant (now Commander) Young, late Gunnery Officer of Her Majesty's ship 'Shannon,' and William Hall, 'Captain of the Foretop,' of that Vessel, were recommended by the late Captain Peel for the Victoria Cross, for their gallant conduct at a 24-Pounder Gun, brought up to the angle of the Shah Nujjiff, at Lucknow, on the 16th of November, 1857.

*(London Gazette, 1 February 1859)*



BOMBARDMENT OF SEBASTOPOL BY  
HMS RODNEY, CRIMEAN WAR (1854)

# HERBERT TAYLOR READE



NAME

READE, Herbert Taylor

RANK

Staff Surgeon 2nd Class

DATE OF BIRTH

20 September 1828

PLACE OF BIRTH

Perth, Upper Canada (Ontario)

ENLISTMENT DATE

November 1850

UNIT

Gloucestershire Regiment, British Army

DATE OF DEATH

23 June 1897

PLACE OF DEATH

Bath, England

Herbert Taylor Reade was born in Perth, Upper Canada (Ontario), on 20 September 1828. He was the son of Staff Surgeon George Hume Reade, who was the colonel of the 3rd Regiment of the Leeds Militia in Upper Canada (Ontario) and who was killed during the Crimean War in 1854.

Herbert Reade attended schools in Quebec and Ireland.

Reade entered the British Army in November 1850 as the assistant surgeon to the 61st Regiment of Foot, later known as the Gloucestershire Regiment. In 1857, he was promoted to staff surgeon 2nd class.

Reade was in action during the Siege, Assault and Capture of Delhi during the Indian Mutiny. During the siege on 14 September 1857, a group of rebels started firing on the wounded men to whom Reade was attending. He led a small party of soldiers to fight them off. On the 16th, during the assault of Delhi, he helped spike one of the enemy's guns. Reade was mentioned in dispatches for his actions during the Indian Mutiny and received the Victoria Cross. He was also made a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of Bath.

After returning to England, Reade became the surgeon general in 1886. He retired from military service the following year. In 1895, he was named Honorary Surgeon to Queen Victoria.

Herbert Taylor Reade died on 23 June 1897 in Bath, England. His Victoria Cross and other medals are on display at the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Gloucester, England.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

5 FEBRUARY, 1861

During the siege of Delhi, on the 14th of September, 1857, while Surgeon Reade was attending to the wounded, at the end of one of the streets of the city, a party of rebels advanced from the direction of the Bank, and having established themselves in the houses in the street, commenced firing from the roofs. The wounded were thus in very great danger, and would have fallen into the hands of the enemy, had not Surgeon Reade drawn his sword, and calling upon the few soldiers who were near to follow, succeeded, under a very heavy fire, in dislodging the rebels from their position.

Surgeon Reade's party consisted of about ten in all, of whom two were killed, and five or six wounded.

Surgeon Reade also accompanied the regiment at the assault of Delhi, and, on the morning of the 16th September, 1857, was one of the first up at the breach in the magazine, which was stormed by the 61st Regiment and Belooch Battalion, upon which occasion he, with a sergeant of the 61st Regiment, spiked one of the enemy's guns.

*(London Gazette, 5 February 1861)*

## RECIPIENTS

COCKBURN, Hampden Zane  
Churchill

HOLLAND, Edward James Gibson

NICKERSON, William Henry Snyder

RICHARDSON, Arthur Herbert Lindsay

TURNER, Richard Ernest William





# THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR



1899-1902

# HAMPDEN ZANE CHURCHILL COCKBURN



NAME  
COCKBURN, Hampden Zane Churchill

RANK  
Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH  
19 November 1867

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Toronto, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1891

UNIT  
Royal Canadian Dragoons

DATE OF DEATH  
12 July 1913

PLACE OF DEATH  
Grayburn, Saskatchewan

Hampden Zane Churchill Cockburn was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 19 November 1867. After studying at Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, he became a barrister. During the South African War, Cockburn served with the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

On 7 November 1900, at Leliefontein, near the Komati River in South Africa, a large force of Boer commandos sought to encircle a retreating British column whose rearguard comprised two troops of Royal Canadian Dragoons and two 12-pounder guns of "D" Battery, Royal Canadian Field Artillery.

At one point, the remnant of Lieutenant Cockburn's troop of Dragoons fought desperately against 200 Boers who were intent on capturing "D" Battery's two guns. His handful of men successfully held off the Boers, thus allowing an escape with the guns, but all became casualties, including Cockburn, who was slightly wounded. For his part in saving the guns, Lieutenant Cockburn received the Victoria Cross, one of three awarded for separate incidents in this action (see pages 18 and 24).

Cockburn died in Grayburn, Saskatchewan, on 12 July 1913.





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

23 APRIL, 1901

... with a handful of men, at a most critical moment held off the Boers to allow the guns to get away; to do so he had to sacrifice himself and his party, all of whom were killed, wounded, or taken prisoners, he himself being slightly wounded.

*(London Gazette, no. 27307, 23 April 1901)*



CANADIANS FIRING AT THE BOER TRENCHES BETWEEN 50 AND 200 METRES AWAY. POSSIBLY THE FIRST PHOTO TAKEN OF A FRONT-LINE BATTLE.

# EDWARD JAMES GIBSON HOLLAND



NAME

HOLLAND, Edward James Gibson

RANK

Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

2 February 1878

PLACE OF BIRTH

Ottawa, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

1899

UNIT

Royal Canadian Dragoons

DATE OF DEATH

18 June 1948

PLACE OF DEATH

Cobalt, Ontario

**E**dward James Gibson Holland was born in Ottawa, Ontario, on 2 February 1878. As a young man, he joined the 5th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards of the militia. When the South African War began, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

On 7 November 1900, at Leliefontein, near the Komati River in South Africa, a large force of Boer commandos sought to encircle a retreating British column whose rearguard comprised two troops of Royal Canadian Dragoons and two 12-pounder guns of "D" Battery, Royal Canadian Field Artillery.

Sergeant Holland was in charge of a Colt machine gun firing between the two 12-pounders, helping to hold off the Boers. When his machine gun jammed, Holland calmly disconnected the hot barrel, ran and captured a horse, and rode away with the gun under his arm. For his part in saving the 12-pounders and denying the use of his machine gun to the enemy, Sergeant Holland received the Victoria Cross, one of three awarded for separate incidents in this action (see pages 16 and 24).

After he returned to Canada, Holland received a commission as an officer in his old militia unit, the 5th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. During the First World War, he commanded a Motor Machine Gun Battery, serving in France with the Canadian Expeditionary Force for one year.

Holland died on 18 June 1948 in Cobalt, Ontario.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

23 APRIL, 1901

Sergeant Holland did splendid work with his Colt gun, and kept the Boers off the two 12-pounders by its fire at close range. When he saw the enemy were too near for him to escape with the carriage, as the horse was blown, he calmly lifted the gun off and galloped away with it under his arm.

*(London Gazette, no. 27307, 23 April 1901)*



# WILLIAM HENRY SNYDER NICKERSON



NAME

NICKERSON, William Henry Snyder

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

27 March 1875

PLACE OF BIRTH

Dorchester, New Brunswick

ENLISTMENT DATE

1898

UNIT

Royal Army Medical Corps

DATE OF DEATH

10 April 1954

PLACE OF DEATH

Cour, Kintyre, Argyllshire, Scotland

W

William Henry Snyder Nickerson was born in Dorchester, New Brunswick, on 27 March 1875 to an English family that had immigrated to Canada. While he was still a child, the family returned to Britain, where Nickerson would go on to study medicine. He later enlisted and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the South African War.

On 20 April 1900, Nickerson was a 25-year-old lieutenant attached to the Mounted Infantry of the British Army at Wakkerstroom, South Africa. He was involved in an advance on Bwab's Hill that saw heavy fighting, during which a trooper from the Worcestershire Regiment was badly wounded by shellfire. He was in an exposed position, and there was no way he could be rescued until the enemy fire eased. That night, during an infantry assault to aid the mounted infantry, Lieutenant Nickerson risked his life to go forward and help the wounded man. For this action, he was awarded the Victoria Cross and mentioned in dispatches.

Nickerson survived the war and later rose to the rank of major-general after service in the First World War. In 1933, he was appointed colonel-in-chief of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Nickerson died on 10 April 1954 and is buried in the private burial ground at his home in Cour, Kintyre, Scotland.



# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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*12 FEBRUARY, 1901*

At Wakkerstroom, on the evening of the 20th April, 1900, during the advance of the Infantry to support the Mounted Troops, Lieutenant Nickerson went, in the most gallant manner, under a heavy rifle and

shell fire, to attend a wounded man, dressed his wounds, and remained with him till he had him conveyed to a place of safety.

*(London Gazette, February 12, 1901)*

# ARTHUR HERBERT LINDSAY RICHARDSON



NAME  
RICHARDSON, Arthur Herbert Lindsay

RANK  
Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH  
23 September 1872

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Southport, England

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1899

UNIT  
Lord Strathcona's Horse  
(Royal Canadians)

DATE OF DEATH  
15 December 1932

PLACE OF DEATH  
Liverpool, England

Arthur Herbert Lindsay Richardson was born in Southport, England, on 23 September 1873. In 1894, he came to Canada and joined the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP). When the South African War began in 1899, Richardson obtained leave from the NWMP to enlist in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), a regiment that was being raised for service in the conflict.

Sergeant Richardson earned the Victoria Cross on 5 July 1900 at Wolve Spruit, near Standerton, South Africa. When he spotted a wounded Canadian trooper whose horse had been shot, he rode through heavy crossfire to within 300 metres of the enemy in order to rescue his comrade.

Richardson returned to the NWMP after the war ended in 1902 and eventually reached the rank of sergeant major. However, in 1907 poor health forced him to purchase his discharge and, eventually, to settle in Liverpool, England, where he became a recluse. During this period, another man named Arthur Richardson, a corporal in the Gordon Highlanders of the British Army, began passing himself off as the winner of the Victoria Cross. He succeeded so well that, when he died, he was buried with military honours. Ironically, the real Arthur Richardson, VC, was discovered marching in the funeral cortège of his imposter. As a result, Richardson rose to a certain prominence in his late middle age.

Richardson died in Liverpool on 15 December 1932.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 SEPTEMBER, 1900

On the 5th July, 1900, at Wolve Spruit, about 15 miles north of Standerton, a party of Lord Strathcona's Corps, only 38 in number, came into contact, and was engaged at close quarters, with a force of 80 of the enemy.

When the order to retire had been given, Sergeant Richardson rode back under a very heavy cross-fire and picked up

a trooper whose horse had been shot and who was wounded in two places and rode with him out of fire.

At the time when this act of gallantry was performed, Sergeant Richardson was within 300 yards of the enemy, and was himself riding a wounded horse.

*(London Gazette, No. 27229, 14 September 1900)*

# RICHARD ERNEST WILLIAM TURNER



NAME  
TURNER, Richard Ernest William

RANK  
Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH  
25 July 1871

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Quebec City, Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1892

UNIT  
Royal Canadian Dragoons

DATE OF DEATH  
19 June 1961

PLACE OF DEATH  
Quebec City, Quebec

**R**ichard Ernest William Turner was born on 25 July 1871 in Quebec City, Quebec. When the South African War began in 1899, he was a second lieutenant in the militia and immediately joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

On 7 November 1900 at Leliefontein, near the Komati River in South Africa, a large force of Boer commandos sought to encircle a retreating British column whose rearguard comprised two troops of Royal Canadian Dragoons and two 12-pounder guns of "D" Battery, Royal Canadian Field Artillery.

Turner, who had already been wounded while commanding one of the troops of the Dragoons, was retiring in front of the strong Boer assault when he received word that "D" Battery's guns were in danger of being captured. He positioned a dozen of his troopers to ambush the attacking enemy. The successful execution of the ambush saved the guns and earned the Victoria Cross for Turner, one of three awarded for separate incidents in this action (see pages 16 and 18). Turner also received the Distinguished Service Order.

Turner again served overseas during the First World War, first commanding the 3rd Infantry Brigade and later the 2nd Division, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Eventually promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general, he was put in charge of the Canadian forces in Britain, and in 1918 he became chief of the general staff of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada.

Turner died in Quebec City on 19 June 1961.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

23 APRIL, 1901

Later in the day when the Boers again seriously threatened to capture the guns, Lieutenant Turner, although twice previously wounded, dismounted and deployed

his men at close quarters and drove off the Boers, thus saving the guns.

*(London Gazette, No. 27307, 23 April 1901)*



ARCH IN HONOUR OF LIEUTENANT R.E.W. TURNER,  
WHO BROUGHT THE FIRST VICTORIA CROSS TO  
QUEBEC CITY.

## RECIPIENTS

ALGIE, Wallace Lloyd  
BARKER, William George  
BARRON, Colin Fraser  
BELLEW, Edward Donald  
BENT, Philip Eric  
BISHOP, William Avery  
BOURKE, Rowland Richard Lewis  
BRERETON, Alexander Picton  
BRILLANT, Jean  
BROWN, Harry  
CAIRNS, Hugh  
CAMPBELL, Frederick William  
CLARKE, Lionel (Leo) Beaumaurice  
CLARK-KENNEDY, William Hew  
COMBE, Robert Grierson  
COPPINS, Frederick George  
CROAK, John Bernard  
CRUICKSHANK, Robert Edward  
DE WIND, Edmund

DINESEN, Thomas  
FISHER, Fred Erick  
FLOWERDEW, Gordon Muriel  
GEARY, Benjamin  
GOOD, Herman James  
GREGG, Milton Fowler  
HALL, Frederick William  
HANNA, Robert Hill  
HARVEY, Frederick Maurice Watson  
HOBSON, Frederick  
HOLMES, Thomas William  
HONEY, Samuel Lewis  
HUTCHESON, Bellenden Seymour  
KAEBLE, Joseph Thomas  
KERR, George Fraser  
KERR, John Chipman  
KINROSS, Cecil John  
KNIGHT, Arthur George  
KONOWAL, Filip

LEARMONTH, Okill Massey  
LYALL, Graham Thomson  
MACDOWELL, Thain Wendell  
MACGREGOR, John  
McKEAN, George Burdon  
McKENZIE, Hugh Donald  
McLEOD, Alan Arnett  
MERRIFIELD, William  
METCALF, William Henry  
MILNE, William Johnstone  
MINER, Harry Garnet Bedford  
MITCHELL, Coulson Norman  
MULLIN, George Harry  
NUNNEY, Claude Joseph Patrick  
O'KELLY, Christopher Patrick John  
O'LEARY, Michael John  
O'ROURKE, Michael James  
PATTISON, John George

PEARKES, George Randolph  
PECK, Cyrus Wesley  
RAYFIELD, Walter Leigh  
RICHARDSON, James Cleland  
RICKETTS, Thomas  
ROBERTSON, James Peter  
RUTHERFORD, Charles Smith  
SCRIMGER, Dr. Francis Alexander  
Caron  
SHANKLAND, Robert  
SIFTON, Ellis Wellwood  
SINTON, Dr. John Alexander  
SPALL, Robert  
STRACHAN, Harcus  
TAIT, James Edward  
WILKINSON, Thomas Orde Lawder  
YOUNG, John Francis  
ZENGEL, Raphael Louis





# THE FIRST WORLD WAR



1914-1918



# WALLACE LLOYD ALGIE



Wallace Lloyd Algie was born on 10 June 1891 in Alton, Ontario. In April 1916, he enlisted in the 20th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Lieutenant Algie was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conduct on 11 October 1918 during the final day of the advance to Cambrai, France, by the Canadian Corps. When his troops came under heavy machine gun fire from a nearby village, Algie rushed forward with nine men and disabled the crew of one machine gun, and then turned it on the enemy. Continuing to advance into the village with his party, he attacked a second machine gun crew, killing them all, and captured an officer and ten men, thereby clearing the eastern end of the village.

Lieutenant Algie was killed later that day while returning to the village with reinforcements.

NAME

ALGIE, Wallace Lloyd

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

10 June 1891

PLACE OF BIRTH

Alton, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

April 1916

UNIT

20th (Central Ontario) Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

11 October 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Cambrai, France

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

31 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 11th October, 1918, north-east of Cambrai, when with attacking troops which came under heavy enfilade machine-gun fire from a neighbouring village.

Rushing forward with nine volunteers, he shot the crew of an enemy machine gun, and, turning it on the enemy, enabled his party to reach the village. He then rushed another machine gun, killed the crew,

captured an officer and 10 enemy, and thereby cleared the end of the village.

Lt. Algie, having established his party, went back for reinforcements, but was killed when leading them forward. His valour and personal initiative in the face of intense fire saved many lives and enabled the position to be held.

*(London Gazette, No. 31155, 31 January 1919)*

# WILLIAM GEORGE BARKER



NAME

BARKER, William George

RANK

Major

DATE OF BIRTH

3 November 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH

Dauphin, Manitoba

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1914

UNIT

Royal Air Force

DATE OF DEATH

12 March 1930

PLACE OF DEATH

Rockcliffe (Ottawa), Ontario



William George Barker was born in Dauphin, Manitoba, on 3 November 1894. During the First World War, Barker enlisted as an infantryman but later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps (as of 1 April 1918, the Royal Air Force). A superb fighter pilot, he was responsible for the destruction of 50 enemy aircraft.

On 27 October 1918, while flying alone over the Forêt de Mormal in France on his way back to England, Major Barker engaged successive formations of German aircraft. After shooting down an enemy two-seater, he was attacked by a fighter and suffered a wound in his thigh. Barker found himself surrounded by enemy fighters and was again severely wounded. Nevertheless, he succeeded in bringing down three more German aircraft before crashing behind his own lines. For his conduct on this occasion, Major Barker was awarded the Victoria Cross.

For his wartime service, Barker also received the Distinguished Service Order with one bar and the Military Cross with two bars. Barker was killed in a flying accident at Rockcliffe airport, near Ottawa, on 12 March 1930.

William George Barker is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

30 NOVEMBER, 1918

On the morning of the 27th October, 1918, this officer observed an enemy two-seater over the Fôret de Mormal. He attacked this machine, and after a short burst it broke up in the air. At the same time a Fokker biplane attacked him, and he was wounded in the right thigh, but managed, despite this, to shoot down the enemy aeroplane in flames.

He then found himself in the middle of a large formation of Fokkers, who attacked him from all directions; and was again severely wounded in the left thigh; but succeeded in driving down two of the enemy in a spin.

He lost consciousness after this, and his machine fell out of control. On recovery he found himself being again attacked heavily by a large formation, and singling out one machine, he deliberately charged and drove it down in flames.

During this fight his left elbow was shattered, and he again fainted, and on regaining consciousness he found himself still being attacked, but, notwithstanding that he was now severely wounded in both

legs and his left arm shattered, he dived on the nearest machine and shot it down in flames.

Being greatly exhausted, he dived out of the fight to regain our lines, but was met by another formation, which attacked and endeavoured to cut him off, but after a hard fight he succeeded in breaking up this formation and reached our lines, where he crashed on landing.

This combat, in which Major Barker destroyed four enemy machines (three of them in flames), brought his total successes up to fifty enemy machines destroyed, and is a notable example of the exceptional bravery and disregard which this very gallant officer has always displayed throughout his distinguished career.

Major Barker was awarded the Military Cross on 10th January, 1917; first Bar on 18th July, 1917; the Distinguished Service Order on 18th February, 1918; second Bar to Military Cross on 16th September, 1918; and Bar to Distinguished Service Order on 2nd November, 1918.

*(London Gazette, No. 31042, 30 November 1918)*





# COLIN FRASER BARRON



NAME

**BARRON, Colin Fraser**

RANK

Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

20 September 1893

PLACE OF BIRTH

Baldavie, Boyndie, Banffshire, Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

April 1915

UNIT

3rd Infantry Battalion  
(The Toronto Regiment), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

15 August 1958

PLACE OF DEATH

Toronto, Ontario

**C**olin Fraser Barron was born on 20 September 1893 in Baldavie, Boyndie, Scotland. He came to Canada in 1910 and enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914.

Corporal Barron earned the Victoria Cross on 6 November 1917 for his actions near Passchendaele, Belgium, while serving with the 3rd Infantry Battalion. His unit's objective was to take a "pillbox" containing three machine guns at Goudberg Spur since the fortification blocked the line of advance. Armed with a Lewis light machine gun, Barron worked his way around the flank of the German position. Alone, he opened fire at point-blank range and rushed the machine guns, killing four of the crew and capturing the remainder. Barron then turned one of the captured machine guns on retreating enemy troops, inflicting heavy casualties. His remarkable individual effort enabled his battalion to continue its advance.

During the Second World War, Barron served with the Royal Regiment of Canada in Iceland and England. He died in Toronto, Ontario, on 15 August 1958.

Colin Fraser Barron is buried in Prospect Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario.





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For conspicuous bravery when in attack his unit was held up by three machine-guns. Corpl. Barron opened on them from a flank at point-blank range, rushed the enemy guns single-handed, killed four of the crew, and captured the remainder. He then, with remarkable initiative and skill, turned one

of the captured guns on the retiring enemy, causing them severe casualties.

The remarkable dash and determination displayed by this N.C.O. in rushing the guns produced far-reaching results, and enabled the advance to be continued.

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*



# EDWARD DONALD BELLEW



NAME

BELLEW, Edward Donald

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

28 October 1882

PLACE OF BIRTH

Bombay, India

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

7th (1st British Columbia) Infantry  
Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

1 February 1961

PLACE OF DEATH

Kamloops, British Columbia

**E**dward Donald Bellew was born in Bombay, India, on 28 October 1882. He came to Canada after serving in the British Army for several years.

Lieutenant Bellew received the Victoria Cross for his actions on 24 April 1915 near Keerselaere, Belgium, while serving as a battalion machine gun officer with the 7th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. During a major German attack, he had two machine guns in action on a high feature overlooking the ground across which the enemy was advancing. When the German infantrymen were less than 100 metres away, Bellew and his sergeant, knowing that their rear was also threatened, resolved to fight it out. Although Lieutenant Bellew was wounded and the sergeant was killed, Bellew managed to continue firing until the supply of ammunition was exhausted. Before the enemy occupied his position and took him prisoner, Bellew seized a rifle and smashed his machine gun, thus denying the Germans use of it.

Bellew died in Kamloops, British Columbia, on 1 February 1961.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

15 MAY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Keerselaere on 24th April, 1915, during the German attack on the Ypres salient. Capt. (then Lieut.) Bellew, as Battalion Machine Gun Officer, had two guns in action on the high ground overlooking Keerselaere. The enemy's attack broke in full force on the morning of the 24th against the front and right flank of the Battalion – the latter being exposed owing to a gap in the line. The right Company was soon put out of action, but the advance was temporarily stayed by Capt. Bellew, who had sited his guns on the left of the right Company. Reinforcements were sent

forward but they in turn were surrounded and destroyed. With the enemy in strength less than 100 yards from him, with no further assistance in sight, and with his rear threatened, Capt. Bellew and Serjt. Peerless, each operating a gun, decided to stay where they were and fight it out. Serjt. Peerless was killed and Capt. Bellew was wounded and fell. Nevertheless, he got up and maintained his fire till ammunition failed and the enemy rushed the position. Capt. Bellew then seized a rifle, smashed his machine gun, and fighting to the last, was taken prisoner.

*(London Gazette, no. 31340, 15 May 1919)*



A CANADIAN SOLDIER AT THE GRAVESIDE OF A CANADIAN WHO WAS KILLED IN THE 2ND BATTLE OF YPRES. NOVEMBER 1917.

# PHILIP ERIC BENT



**B**orn on 3 January 1891 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Eric Bent was a member of the Leicestershire Regiment.

Bent was killed on 1 October 1917 while leading his battalion in combat to secure a line that was essential for subsequent operations. For his bravery, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

NAME

BENT, Philip Eric

RANK

Lieutenant-Colonel

DATE OF BIRTH

3 January 1891

PLACE OF BIRTH

Halifax, Nova Scotia

ENLISTMENT DATE

1914

UNIT

Leicestershire Regiment

DATE OF DEATH

1 October 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

East of Polygon Wood, Zonnebeke,  
Belgium





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery, when during a heavy hostile attack, the right of his own command and the battalion on his right were forced back. The situation was critical owing to the confusion caused by the attack and the intense artillery fire. Lt.-Col. Bent personally collected a platoon that was in reserve, and together with men from other companies and various regimental details, he organised and led them forward to the counter-attack, after issuing orders to other officers as to the

further defence of the line. The counter-attack was successful and the enemy were checked. The coolness and magnificent example shown to all ranks by Lt.-Col. Bent resulted in the securing of a portion of the line which was of essential importance for subsequent operations. This very gallant officer was killed whilst leading a charge which he inspired with the call of "Come on the Tigers".

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*

FOUR O.C.'S OF BATTALIONS OF THE 3RD INFANTRY  
BRIGADE: LT.-COL. MCQUAIG; LT.-COL. BENT; LT.-COL.  
PECK, V.C.; AND MAJOR PRICE. JULY 1918.

# WILLIAM AVERY BISHOP



NAME  
BISHOP, William Avery

RANK  
Captain

DATE OF BIRTH  
8 February 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Owen Sound, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE  
March 1915

UNIT  
Royal Flying Corps

DATE OF DEATH  
11 September 1956

PLACE OF DEATH  
Palm Beach, Florida

**W**illiam Avery Bishop was born in Owen Sound, Ontario, on 8 February 1894. During the outbreak of the Great War, he was a cadet at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. He enrolled in the 9th Mississauga Horse, Canadian Expeditionary Force, on 30 September 1914 and later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps.

Bishop, who had already received the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross, became the first Canadian airman to be awarded the Victoria Cross after his single-handed early morning attack on an enemy airfield near Cambrai, France. On 2 June 1917, he found seven aircraft on the ground; he attacked and destroyed three and was later credited with the destruction of the remaining four.

Bishop continued air operations until August 1917 and returned to the front in June 1918. He emerged as the British Empire's second-highest-scoring ace, with 72 official victories.

During the Second World War, Bishop was an air marshal in the Royal Canadian Air Force and assisted with recruiting. He died in Palm Beach, Florida, on 11 September 1956.





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 AUGUST, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery, determination and skill.

Captain Bishop, who had been sent out to work independently, flew first of all to an enemy aerodrome; finding no machine about, he flew on to another aerodrome about three miles south-east, which was at least twelve miles the other side of the line. Seven machines, some with their engines running, were on the ground. He attacked these from about fifty feet, and a mechanic, who was starting one of the engines, was seen to fall. One of the machines got off the ground, but at a height of sixty feet Captain Bishop fired fifteen rounds into it at very close range, and it crashed to the ground.

A second machine got off the ground,

into which he fired thirty rounds at 150 yards range, and it fell into a tree.

Two more machines then rose from the aerodrome. One of these he engaged at the height of 1,000 feet, emptying the rest of his drum of ammunition. This machine crashed 300 yards from the aerodrome, after which Captain Bishop emptied a whole drum into the fourth hostile machine, and then flew back to his station.

Four hostile scouts were about 1,000 feet above him for about a mile of his return journey, but they would not attack.

His machine was very badly shot about by machine gun fire from the ground.

*(London Gazette, no. 30228, 11 August 1917)*





# ROWLAND RICHARD LOUIS BOURKE



NAME

**BOURKE, Rowland Richard Louis**

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

28 November 1885

PLACE OF BIRTH

London, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

1915

UNIT

Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve

DATE OF DEATH

29 August 1958

PLACE OF DEATH

Victoria, British Columbia

**R**owland Bourke was born near London, England, on 28 November 1885 and emigrated to Canada in 1902 as a young man. When the First World War erupted in August 1914, he was living in British Columbia. He attempted to enlist in the Canadian military but was rejected because of his poor eyesight. Determined to serve, he returned to England and was able to enlist in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve.

On 9–10 May 1918, Lieutenant Bourke was commanding Motor Launch 276 when the events occurred that would earn him a Victoria Cross. The British had attempted an operation to block the port of Ostend, Belgium, so that it could not be used by the Germans who were occupying it. In the aftermath of the daring but bloody naval assault, Bourke took his ship into the enemy harbour to look for any survivors of the raid. Under heavy fire, he rescued three wounded men.

Bourke left the military after the war and returned to British Columbia. His interest in naval matters continued, however, and he helped organize the Fishermen's Reserve to assist with patrolling the west coast.

When the Second World War erupted in 1939, Bourke served as a recruiting officer before returning to sea in 1941 with the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve to command ships and naval bases during the conflict. He concluded his military career in 1950.

Bourke died in 1958 and is buried at Royal Oak Burial Park in Victoria, British Columbia. A mountain on Vancouver Island is named in his honour.

# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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27 AUGUST, 1918

... hearing cries in the water he again entered the harbour, and after a prolonged search eventually found Lieutenant Sir John Alleyne and two ratings, all badly wounded, in the water, clinging to an up-ended skiff, and rescued them. During all this time the motor launch was under a very heavy fire at close range, being hit

in 55 places, once by a 6 inch shell—two of her small crew being killed and others wounded. The vessel was seriously damaged and speed greatly reduced. Lieutenant Bourke, however, managed to bring her out and carry on...

*(London Gazette, August 27, 1918)*

# ALEXANDER PICTON BRERETON



NAME

BRERETON, Alexander Picton

RANK

Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

13 November 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Oak River, Manitoba

ENLISTMENT DATE

January 1916

UNIT

8th Infantry Battalion (90th Rifles), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

11 June 1976

PLACE OF DEATH

Calgary, Alberta

A

lexander Picton Brereton was born in Oak River, Manitoba, on 13 November 1892. During the First World War, he served with the 8th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On 9 August 1918, near Warvillers in France, Corporal Brereton's platoon suddenly came under fire from six German machine guns while in an exposed position. Brereton immediately charged one of the machine guns on his own, shooting a member of the crew, bayoneting a second, and compelling nine others to surrender. The rest of the platoon, inspired by his example, assaulted and captured the five remaining machine gun positions. For his actions on that day, Corporal Brereton was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Brereton died in Calgary, Alberta, on 11 June 1976.





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery during an attack, when a line of hostile machine guns opened fire suddenly on his platoon, which was in an exposed position, and no cover available. This gallant N.C.O. at once appreciated the critical situation and realised that unless something was done at once the platoon would be annihilated. On his own initiative, without a moment's delay, and alone, he sprang forward and reached one of the hostile machine-gun posts, where he

shot the man operating the machine gun and bayoneted the next one who attempted to operate it, whereupon nine others surrendered to him.

Cpl. Brereton's action was a splendid example of resource and bravery, and not only undoubtedly saved many of his comrades' lives, but also inspired his platoon to charge and capture the five remaining posts.

*(London Gazette, no. 30922, 27 September 1918)*

PRISONERS CAPTURED BY CANADIANS. BATTLE OF AMIENS.

# JEAN BRILLANT



NAME

BRILLANT, Jean

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

15 March 1890

PLACE OF BIRTH

Assemetquaghan (Routhierville),  
Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1916

UNIT

22nd (Canadien-Français)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

10 August 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Jean Brillant was born in Assemetquaghan, Quebec, on 15 March 1890. Having previously served with the Canadian militia, Brillant enlisted in the 189th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, in 1916. Later that year, he was assigned to the 22nd Infantry Battalion.

For his conduct during a raid on the night of 27–28 May 1918, Lieutenant Brillant received the Military Cross. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during the first two days of the Battle of Amiens. On 8 August 1918, near Méharicourt, France, he rushed and captured a German machine gun that was holding up the advance of the left flank of his company. In this action, he personally killed two of the machine gun's crew and was himself wounded.

Remaining in command, later the same day Brillant led two platoons in a successful attack on enemy positions after his company's progress was again checked by machine gun fire. Fifteen machine guns and 150 enemy soldiers were captured as a result. While leading this assault, he suffered a second wound. The following day, 9 August, Brillant led yet another attack against a German field gun. He was wounded again, this time critically, but managed to advance almost 200 metres farther before he collapsed from exhaustion and loss of blood. Lieutenant Brillant died the next day.





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and outstanding devotion to duty when in charge of a company which he led in attack during two days with absolute fearlessness and extraordinary ability and initiative, the extent of the advance being twelve miles.

On the first day of operations shortly after the attack had begun, his company left flank was held up by an enemy machine-gun. Lt. Brillant rushed and captured the machine-gun, personally killing two of the enemy crew. Whilst doing this, he was wounded, but refused to leave his command.

Later on the same day, his company was held up by heavy machine-gun fire. He reconnoitred the ground personally, organised a party of two platoons and rushed straight for the machine-gun nest. Here 150 enemy and fifteen machine-guns were captured, Lt. Brillant personally killing

five of the enemy, and being wounded a second time. He had this wound dressed immediately, and again refused to leave his Company.

Subsequently this gallant officer detected a field gun firing on his men over open sights. He immediately organised and led a 'rushing' party towards the gun. After progressing about 600 yards, he was again seriously wounded. In spite of this third wound, he continued to advance for some 200 yards more, when he fell unconscious from exhaustion and loss of blood.

Lt. Brillant's wonderful example throughout the day inspired his men with an enthusiasm and dash which largely contributed towards the success of the operation.

*(London Gazette, no. 30922, 27 September 1918)*



# HARRY BROWN



NAME

**BROWN, Harry**

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

11 May 1898

PLACE OF BIRTH

Gananoque, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

August 1916

UNIT

10th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

17 August 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Méharicourt, France

Harry Brown was born in Gananoque, Ontario, on 11 May 1898. During the First World War, he served with the 10th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On 16 August 1917, elements of Private Brown's battalion had advanced to a position around Hill 70, near Lens, France. In the face of repeated German counterattacks, the force found itself with its right flank exposed and all communications to the rear cut. Brown and another soldier were given the task of breaking through enemy lines to reach battalion headquarters in the rear and request reinforcements.

While making their way to the rear through an intense barrage, Brown's arm was shattered and his companion was killed. Nevertheless, he persevered until he arrived at the close support lines, where he found an officer. Brown was so weakened that he fell down the steps to the dugout, but he remained conscious long enough to communicate the message. He then passed out and was taken to a dressing station, where he died a few hours later. For his actions on this occasion, Private Brown was awarded the Victoria Cross.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

17 OCTOBER, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery, courage and devotion to duty.

After the capture of a position, the enemy massed in force and counter-attacked. The situation became very critical, all wires being cut. It was of the utmost importance to get word back to Headquarters. This soldier and one other were given the message with orders to deliver the same at all costs. The other messenger was killed. Pte. Brown had his arm shattered, but continued on through an intense barrage until he arrived at the close support lines and found an officer.

He was so spent that he fell down the dugout steps, but retained consciousness long enough to hand over his message, saying, "Important message." He then became unconscious, and died in the dressing station a few hours later.

His devotion to duty was of the highest possible degree imaginable, and his successful delivery of the message undoubtedly saved the loss of the position for the time and prevented many casualties.

*(London Gazette, no. 30338, 17 October 1917)*

A RUINED HOUSE WITHIN 900 YARDS OF THE CENTRE OF LENS IS USED BY CANADIANS TO SHELTER THEIR WATER TANKS. SEPTEMBER 1917.





# HUGH CAIRNS



NAME

CAIRNS, Hugh

RANK

Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

4 December 1896

PLACE OF BIRTH

Ashington, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

August 1915

UNIT

46th (South Saskatchewan)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

2 November 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Valenciennes, France

Hugh Cairns, who was born in Ashington, England, on 4 December 1896, came with his family to Canada in May 1911. During the First World War, Cairns and his two brothers enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. For his actions in the attack by the Canadian Corps on Vimy Ridge in April 1917, Cairns received the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

On 1 November 1918, while Sergeant Cairns was serving with the 46th Infantry Battalion near Valenciennes, France, a German machine gun opened fire on his platoon as it advanced. Single-handedly, he attacked the enemy position and captured the gun, using a Lewis light machine gun to kill the crew. Later, when progress was blocked again, he charged another group of German positions, killing 12 and capturing another 18 along with two machine guns. When further resistance was encountered from enemy machine guns and artillery, Cairns, though wounded, led a successful effort to outflank and eliminate the defenders. Cairns's small party inflicted many casualties and captured about 50 of the enemy soldiers and all of their guns. A subsequent patrol in which he participated forced 60 more to surrender. It was while disarming this group of prisoners that Cairns was wounded again, this time severely. Although he still managed to open fire and kill many of his assailants, he was overwhelmed by about 20 of the other enemy prisoners and collapsed from weakness and loss of blood. He died the following day.

Sergeant Cairns received a posthumous Victoria Cross for his exemplary conduct in these actions.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

31 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery before Valenciennes on 1st November, 1918, when a machine gun opened on his platoon. Without a moment's hesitation Serjt. Cairns seized a Lewis gun and single-handed, in the face of direct fire, rushed the post, killed the crew of five, and captured the gun. Later, when the line was held up by machine-gun fire, he again rushed forward, killing 12 enemy and capturing 18 and two guns.

Subsequently, when the advance was held up by machine guns and field guns, although wounded, he led a small party to outflank them, killing many, forcing about 50 to surrender, and capturing all the guns.

After consolidation he went with a battle patrol to exploit Marly and forced 60 enemy to surrender. Whilst disarming this party he was severely wounded. Nevertheless, he opened fire and inflicted heavy losses. Finally he was rushed by about 20 enemy and collapsed from weakness and loss of blood.

Throughout the operation he showed the highest degree of valour, and his leadership greatly contributed to the success of the attack. He died on the 2nd November from wounds.

*(London Gazette, no. 31155, 31 January 1919)*

CANADIANS DASHING INTO VALENCIENNES UNDER  
HEAVY GUN FIRE. NOVEMBER 1918.



# FREDERICK WILLIAM CAMPBELL



NAME

CAMPBELL, Frederick William

RANK

Lieutenant, Captain (posthumous)

DATE OF BIRTH

15 June 1869

PLACE OF BIRTH

Mount Forest, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

1st (Western Ontario)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

19 June 1915

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Givenchy, France

**F**rederick William Campbell was born in Mount Forest, Ontario, on 15 June 1869. As a young man, he joined a unit of the Canadian Militia, and later served during the South African War with a machine gun section of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment.

At the beginning of the First World War, Campbell was commissioned as an officer in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was serving with the 1st Battalion when he earned the Victoria Cross for an action near Givenchy, France, on 15 June 1915, his 48th birthday. Employing two Colt machine guns, Lieutenant Campbell led an assault on a German trench line considered to be nearly impregnable. Arriving at the German line, Campbell maintained his lodgement for some time under heavy fire, despite the fact that nearly all of his men became casualties. In order to cover the withdrawal of those who were still capable of escaping, Campbell and another soldier advanced to an exposed position and succeeded in holding back an enemy counterattack. It was as he withdrew that Campbell received the mortal wound from which he died on 19 June 1915.



THE DUCK'S BILL CRATER LOOKING TOWARDS LA  
BASSÉE. THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK BY THE 1ST  
CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

23 AUGUST, 1915

For most conspicuous bravery on 15th June, 1915, during the action at Givenchy.

Lieutenant Campbell took two machine-guns over the parapet, arrived at the German first line with one gun, and maintained his position there, under very heavy rifle, machine-gun, and bomb fire, notwithstanding the fact that almost the whole of his detachment had then been killed or wounded.

When our supply of bombs had become exhausted, this Officer advanced his gun still further to an exposed position, and, by firing about 1,000 rounds, succeeded in holding back the enemy's counter-attack.

This very gallant Officer was subsequently wounded, and has since died.

*(London Gazette, no. 29272, 23 August 1915)*

DUCK'S BILL  
CRATER





# LIONEL (LEO) BEAUMAUURICE CLARKE



Lionel (Leo) Beaumaurice Clarke was born in Waterdown, Ontario, on 1 December 1892. On 9 September 1916, Corporal Clarke was with the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, when it attacked a German trench line in a 500-metre-wide salient in front of the town of Pozières, France. Leading a party to clear the left flank, Clarke entered the trench, and he and his men forced their way toward the centre of the enemy position. Casualties were heavy, and Clarke eventually found himself contending with a German counterattack without any support. Despite a bayonet wound, he continued to fight alone, killing 18 of the enemy and taking one prisoner.

For his actions on this day, Corporal Clarke was awarded the Victoria Cross. A little over a month later, on 19 October 1916, he was fatally injured when the blast from a shell caused him to be buried in a trench.

NAME

CLARKE, Lionel (Leo) Beaumaurice

RANK

Sergeant (Acting Corporal)

DATE OF BIRTH

1 December 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Waterdown, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

February 1915

UNIT

2nd (Eastern Ontario)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

19 October 1916

PLACE OF DEATH

No. 1 General Hospital, Étretat, France

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

26 OCTOBER, 1916

For most conspicuous bravery. He was detailed with his section of bombers to clear the continuation of a newly-captured trench and cover the construction of a "block." After most of his party had become casualties, he was building a "block" when about twenty of the enemy with two officers counter-attacked. He boldly advanced against them, emptied his revolver into them and afterwards two enemy rifles

which he picked up in the trench.

One of the officers then attacked him with the bayonet, wounding him in the leg, but he shot him dead. The enemy then ran away, pursued by Acting Corporal Clarke, who shot four more and captured a fifth.

Later he was ordered to the dressing-station, but returned next day to duty.

*(London Gazette, no. 29802, 26 October 1916)*



# WILLIAM HEW CLARK-KENNEDY



#### NAME

CLARK-KENNEDY, William Hew

#### RANK

Lieutenant-Colonel

#### DATE OF BIRTH

3 March 1880

#### PLACE OF BIRTH

Dunskey, Ayresshire, Scotland

#### ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

#### UNIT

24th Infantry Battalion  
(Victoria Rifles of Canada), CEF

#### DATE OF DEATH

25 October 1961

#### PLACE OF DEATH

Montreal, Quebec



William Hew Clark-Kennedy was born in Dunskey, Scotland, on 3 March 1880. After service with the British Army in the South African War, he came to Canada in 1902.

Clark-Kennedy joined the Royal Highlanders of Canada in 1914, and during the First World War he rose to command the 24th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke-Kennedy was mentioned in dispatches four times, received the Distinguished Service Order and a bar, was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre by France.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clark-Kennedy received the Victoria Cross for his conduct during the Battle of Arras on 27 and 28 August 1918. Over the course of those two days, his battalion suffered numerous casualties near Wancourt, France, as it strove to advance through heavy artillery and machine gun fire. In the face of such strong enemy resistance, Clark-Kennedy led his men forward to eliminate machine gun positions that were preventing the progress of the offensive. This enabled the entire brigade to reach the Fresnes-Rouvray line. Though wounded, Lieutenant-Colonel Clark-Kennedy remained in command of his battalion until its objective was consolidated.

Clark-Kennedy died in Montreal, Quebec, on 25 October 1961.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 DECEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and skilful leading on the 27th and 28th August, 1918, when in command of his battalion.

On the 27th he led his battalion with great bravery and skill from Crow and Aigrette trenches in front of Wancourt to the attack on the Fresnes-Rouvroy line. From the outset the brigade, of which the 24th Battalion was a central unit, came under very heavy shell and machine-gun fire, suffering many casualties, especially amongst leaders. Units became partially disorganised and the advance was checked. Appreciating the vital importance to the brigade front of a lead by the centre, and undismayed by annihilating fire, Lt.-Col. Clark-Kennedy, by sheer personality and initiative, inspired his men and led them forward. On several occasions he set an outstanding example by leading parties

straight at the machine-gun nests which were holding up the advance and overcame these obstacles.

By controlling the direction of neighbouring units and collecting men who had lost their leaders, he rendered valuable services in strengthening the line, and enabled the whole brigade front to move forward.

By the afternoon, very largely due to the determined leadership of this officer and disregard for his own life, his battalion, despite heavy losses, has made good the maze of trenches west of Cherisy and Cherisy Village, had crossed the Sensee Rivert bed, and had occupied Occident Trench in front of the heavy wire of the Fresnes-Rouvroy line; under continuous fire he then went up and down his line until far into the night, improving the position, giving wonderful encouragement to his men, and sent back very clear reports.

On the next day he again showed valorous leadership in the attack on the Fresnes-Rouvroy line and Upton Wood. Though severely wounded soon after the start he refused aid, and dragged himself to a shell-hole, from which he could observe. Realising that his exhausted troops could advance no further he established a strong line of defence and thereby prevented the loss of most important ground. Despite intense pain and serious loss of blood he refused to be evacuated for over five hours, by which time he had established the line in a position from which it was possible for the relieving troops to continue the advance.

It is impossible to overestimate the results achieved by the valour and leadership of this officer.

*(London Gazette, no. 31067, 14 December 1918)*



# ROBERT GRIERSON COMBE



**R**obert Grierson Combe was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, on 5 August 1880. In April 1915 he enlisted in the 27th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Although he received a commission and qualified as a major, Combe later reverted to the rank of lieutenant at his own request.

On 3 May 1917, at Acheville, near Vimy in France, Combe led his company through an enemy artillery barrage, arriving close to his objective with only five men. He proceeded to engage the enemy using grenades, thus inflicting heavy casualties. Having collected more men, Combe finally captured his company's objective and took 80 prisoners. He then continued to charge the enemy, driving them back. While Combe was leading a party of his men with grenades, he was killed by a sniper.

Combe earned a posthumous Victoria Cross for his exemplary leadership and conduct.

NAME

COMBE, Robert Grierson

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

5 August 1880

PLACE OF BIRTH

Aberdeen, Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

April 1915

UNIT

27th (City of Winnipeg)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

3 May 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Acheville, France

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 JUNE, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and example.

He steadied his Company under intense fire, and led them through the enemy barrage, reaching the objective with only five men.

With great coolness and courage Lt. Combe proceeded to bomb the enemy, and inflicted heavy casualties. He collected small groups of men and succeeded in capturing the Company objective, together

with eighty prisoners.

He repeatedly charged the enemy, driving them before him, and, whilst personally leading his bombers, was killed by an enemy sniper.

His conduct inspired all ranks, and it was entirely due to his magnificent courage that the position was carried, secured and held.

*(London Gazette, no. 30154, 27 June 1917)*



TOP: SOME CANADIAN N.C.O.'S. MAY 1917. THESE SOLDIERS ARE LIKELY MEMBERS OF THE 27TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

BOTTOM: GERMAN PRISONERS CARRYING WOUNDED, PASSING A SMASHED GERMAN AMMUNITION WAGON. MAY 1917.





# FREDERICK GEORGE COPPINS



NAME

COPPINS, Frederick George

RANK

Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

25 October 1889

PLACE OF BIRTH

London, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

8th Infantry Battalion (90th Rifles), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

30 March 1963

PLACE OF DEATH

Livermore, California

**F**rederick George Coppins, who was born in London, England, on 25 October 1889, served with the Royal West Kent Regiment before emigrating to Canada. After being in the cavalry for a time, he joined the 8th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Corporal Coppins earned the Victoria Cross on 9 August 1918 while serving with his battalion east of Amiens. When his platoon unexpectedly came under fire from several German machine guns, it was pinned down and unable to advance or retreat. With no cover available, it was imperative that the enemy machine guns be silenced if the platoon was not to be annihilated. On his own initiative, Coppins called on four men to follow him, and together they attacked the enemy positions. The other four men were killed in the charge, and Coppins was wounded. However, he persisted in the assault and, reaching the machine guns alone, killed four enemy soldiers and took four others prisoner.

Coppins died in Livermore, California, on 30 March 1963.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, during an attack, his platoon came unexpectedly under fire of numerous machine guns. It was not possible to advance or to retire, and no cover was available. It became apparent that the platoon would be annihilated unless the enemy machine guns were silenced immediately. Cpl. Coppins, without hesitation, and on his own initiative, called on four men to follow him and leapt forward in the face of intense machine-gun fire. With his comrades he rushed straight for the machine guns. The four men with him were killed and Cpl. Coppins wounded. Despite his

wounds he reached the hostile machine guns alone, killed the operator of the first gun and three of the crew, and made prisoners of four others, who surrendered.

Cpl. Coppins, by this act of outstanding valour, was the means of saving many lives of the men of his platoon, and enabled the advance to be continued.

Despite his wound, this gallant N.C.O. continued with his platoon to the final objective, and only left the line when it had been made secure and when ordered to do so.

*(London Gazette, no. 30922, 27 September 1918)*

TOP: 8TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS DURING ADVANCE. BATTLE OF AMIENS. AUGUST 1918.

BOTTOM: A CANADIAN ARMoured CAR GOING INTO ACTION. BATTLE OF AMIENS. AUGUST 1918.



# JOHN BERNARD CROAK



NAME

CROAK, John Bernard

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

18 May 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Little Bay, Newfoundland

ENLISTMENT DATE

August 1915

UNIT

13th Infantry Battalion  
(Royal Highlanders of Canada), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

8 August 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Amiens, France

John Bernard Croak was born in Little Bay, Newfoundland, on 18 May 1892. Four years later, his family moved to Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, in pursuit of work in Cape Breton's coal mines. When the First World War started, Croak enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served with the 13th Infantry Battalion.

On 8 August 1918, at the beginning of the Allied offensive around Amiens in France, Private Croak became separated from his platoon during the advance. When he encountered a German machine gun position, he attacked it and captured both the machine gun and its crew. Subsequently wounded, he rejoined his platoon as it arrived at another enemy strongpoint. Dashing forward alone, Croak was almost immediately followed by the rest of his platoon in a charge that resulted in the capture of three machine guns and the survivors of the strongpoint's garrison. In the course of this action, Private Croak was wounded a second time and died a few minutes later.

For his actions on this occasion, Private Croak was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery in attack when having become separated from his section he encountered a machine-gun nest, which he bombed and silenced, taking the gun and crew prisoners. Shortly afterwards he was severely wounded, but refused to desist.

Having rejoined his platoon, a very strong point, containing several machine guns, was encountered. Private Croak, however, seeing an opportunity, dashed

forward alone and was almost immediately followed by the remainder of the platoon in a brilliant charge. He was the first to arrive at the trench line, into which he led his men, capturing three machine guns and bayoneting or capturing the entire garrison.

The perseverance and valour of this gallant soldier, who was again severely wounded, and died of his wounds, were an inspiring example to all.

*(London Gazette, no. 30922, 27 September 1918)*



A FIELD GUN CAPTURED BY THE 13TH BATTALION, AMIENS. AUGUST 1918.



# ROBERT EDWARD CRUICKSHANK



NAME

CRUICKSHANK, Robert Edward

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

17 June 1888

PLACE OF BIRTH

Winnipeg, Manitoba

ENLISTMENT DATE

1914

UNIT

2/14th (County of London) Battalion  
(London Scottish), British Army

DATE OF DEATH

30 August 1961

PLACE OF DEATH

Leicestershire, England

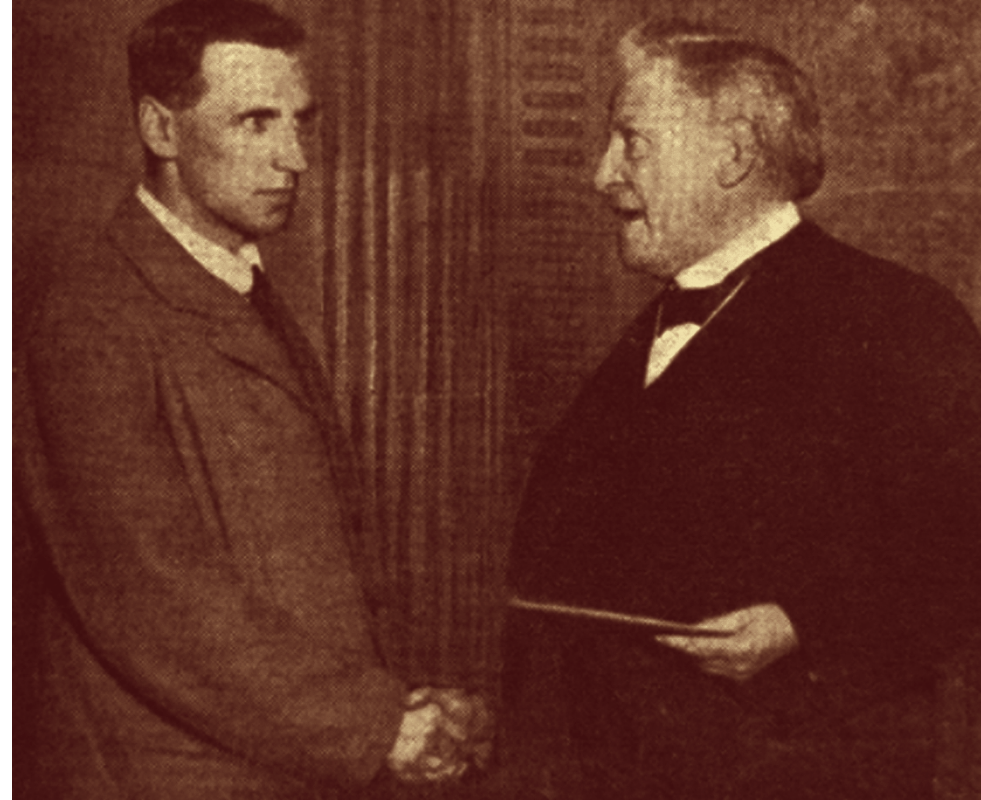
**R**obert Edward Cruickshank was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on 17 June 1888. His family moved to England when he was very young. After leaving school, Cruickshank worked as a salesman and joined the Territorial Army in 1908.

When the First World War broke out, Cruickshank volunteered for the Royal Flying Corps but soon transferred to the London Scottish Regiment. He was wounded during the Battle of the Somme in France before being sent to serve in the Middle East.

On 1 May 1918, Private Cruickshank's platoon came under heavy fire east of the Jordan River in Palestine and sought cover in a wadi ("valley" or "dry river"). With the men desperately needing assistance, he volunteered to deliver a message to company headquarters.

Cruickshank survived the war and returned to England, where he was hailed as a hero, receiving his Victoria Cross at Buckingham Palace on 24 October 1918. He returned to his career in sales and became very active in the British Legion. When the Second World War erupted, Cruickshank volunteered to serve in the Home Guard and reached the rank of major.

Cruickshank died on 30 August 1961, and his ashes were interred at Glen Parva Parish Church, Leicestershire, England.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

21 JUNE, 1916

The platoon to which Private Cruickshank belonged came under very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire at short range and was led down a steep bank into a wadi, most of the men being hit before they reached the bottom. Immediately after reaching the bottom of the wadi the officer in command was shot dead, and the sergeant who then took over command sent a runner back to Company Headquarters asking for support, but was mortally wounded almost immediately after; the corporal having in the meantime been killed, the only remaining N.C.O. (a lance-corporal), believing the first messenger to have been killed, called for a volunteer to take a second message back.

Private Cruickshank immediately responded and rushed up the slope, but was hit and rolled back into the wadi bottom. He again rose and rushed up the slope, but, being again wounded, rolled back into the wadi. After his wounds had been dressed he rushed a third time up the slope and again fell badly wounded. Being now unable to stand he rolled himself back amid a hail of bullets. His wounds were now of such a nature as to preclude him making any further attempt and he lay all day in a dangerous position, being sniped at and again wounded where he lay. He displayed the utmost valour and endurance, and was cheerful and uncomplaining throughout.

*(London Gazette, 21 June, 1916)*

LORD LEVERHULME PERSONALLY PRESENTED  
CRUICKSHANK WITH A GOLD WATCH AND A £100  
WAR BOND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS V.C.



# EDMUND DE WIND



NAME

DE WIND, Edmund

RANK

Second Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

11 December 1883

PLACE OF BIRTH

Comber, County Down, Ireland

ENLISTMENT DATE

November 1914

UNIT

31st (Alberta) Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

21 March 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Grugies, France

**E**dmond De Wind was the son of the late Arthur Hughes De Wind, C.E., and Margaret Jane De Wind, of "Kinvara," Comber, County Down, Ireland.

He served in the 31st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and was appointed to his commission in the Imperial Army on 26 September 1917.

On 21 March 1918 at the Race Course Redoubt, near Grugies, France, he maintained an important post for seven hours, repelling several attacks until he was mortally wounded.

De Wind was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice.

# The London Gazette,

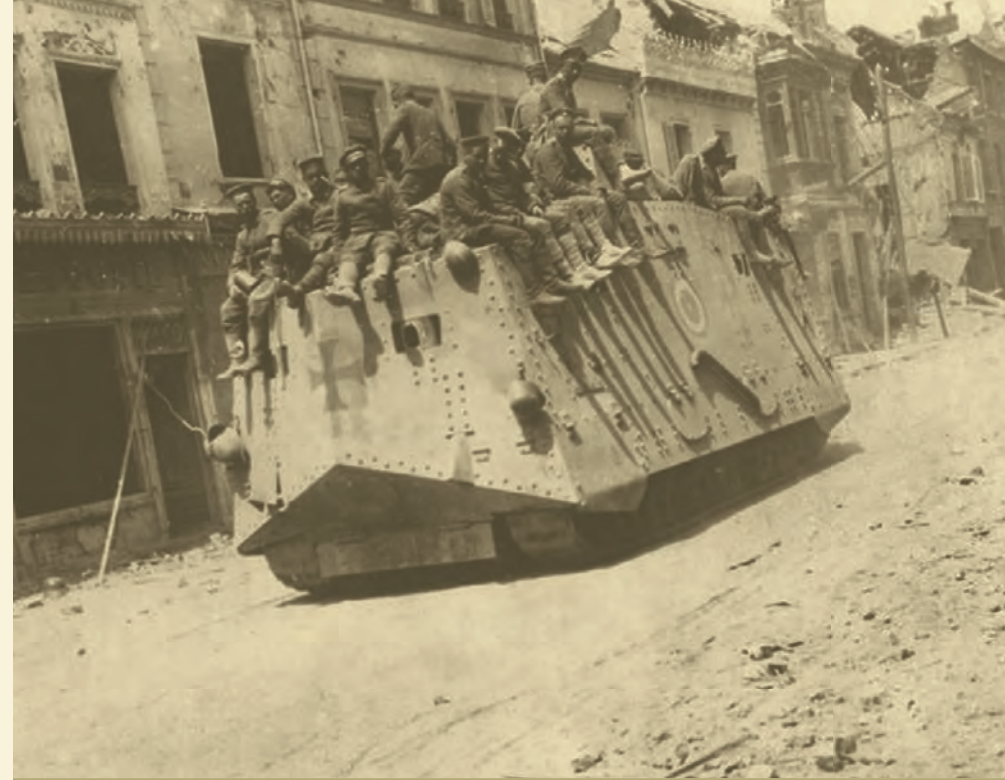
Published by Authority.

13 MAY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 21st March, 1918, at the Race Course Redoubt, near Grugies. For seven hours he held this most important post, and though twice wounded and practically single-handed, he maintained his position until another section could be got to his help. On two occasions, with two N.C.O.'s

only, he got out on top under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, and cleared the enemy out of the trench, killing many. He continued to repel attack after attack until he was mortally wounded and collapsed. His valour, self-sacrifice and example were of the highest order.

*(London Gazette, 13 May, 1919)*



GERMAN A7V TANK AT ROYE ON 21 MARCH 1918.



# THOMAS DINESEN



NAME

DINESEN, Thomas

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

9 August 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Rungsted, Denmark

ENLISTMENT DATE

June 1917

UNIT

42nd Infantry Battalion  
(Royal Highlanders of Canada), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

10 March 1979

PLACE OF DEATH

Leerbaek, Denmark

**T**homas Dinesen was born in Rungsted, Denmark, on 9 August 1892. During the First World War, he unsuccessfully attempted to join the French Army, the British Army, and the American Army. Finally, through the offices of the Canadian recruiting authorities in New York, Dinesen was able to enlist in the Royal Highlanders of Canada. He served in France with the 42nd Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Private Dinesen earned the Victoria Cross as a result of his actions during the Allied offensive known as the Battle of Amiens. On 12 August 1918, his exertions over ten hours resulted in the capture of more than 1.5 kilometres of stubbornly defended German trenches at Parvillers. As well as engaging in hand-to-hand fighting, Dinesen rushed forward alone five times to put hostile machine guns out of action, killing 12 of the enemy.

In recognition of Private Dinesen's achievement, the French government awarded him the Croix de Guerre. He became a commissioned officer in November 1918.

Dinesen died in Leerbaek, Denmark, on 10 March 1979.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

26 OCTOBER, 1918

For most conspicuous and continuous bravery displayed during ten hours of hand-to-hand fighting, which resulted in the capture of over a mile of strongly garrisoned and stubbornly defended enemy trenches.

Five times in succession he rushed forward alone, and single-handed put hostile

machine guns out of action, accounting for twelve of the enemy with bomb and bayonet. His sustained valour and resourcefulness inspired his comrades at a very critical stage of the action, and were an example to all.

*(London Gazette, no. 30975, 26 October 1918)*

22ND BATTALION BIVOUACKED BEHIND THE LINES.  
BATTLE OF AMIENS. AUGUST 1918.



# FREDERICK FISHER



NAME  
FISHER, Frederick

RANK  
Lance Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH  
3 August 1895

PLACE OF BIRTH  
St Catharines, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE  
September 1914

UNIT  
13th Infantry Battalion  
(Royal Highlanders of Canada), CEF

DATE OF DEATH  
23 April 1915

PLACE OF DEATH  
Near St Julien, Belgium

**F**red Fisher was born in St Catharines, Ontario, on 3 August 1895. About 1907, his family moved to Montreal, Quebec, where Fisher was studying Applied Science at McGill University when the First World War began.

On 23 April 1915, Lance Corporal Fisher was serving in Belgium with the machine gun section of the 13th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Coming up from St Julien that day, during the Second Battle of Ypres, he discovered two 18-pounder field guns in danger of being overrun by attacking German infantry. Fisher brought his machine gun into action and, with the help of six other soldiers, held off the enemy until the field guns could be withdrawn. Later the same day, he was killed during another attempt to move forward.

For his part in this first major engagement of the war in which Canadian troops were involved, Lance Corporal Fisher was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously, becoming the first Canadian from a Canadian unit to win the decoration in that conflict.

# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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23 JUNE, 1915

On 23rd April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of St. Julien, he went forward with the machine gun, of which he was in charge, under heavy fire, and most gallantly assisted in covering the retreat of a battery, losing four men of his gun team.

Later, after obtaining four more men, he went forward again to the firing line and was himself killed while bringing his machine gun into action under very heavy fire, in order to cover the advance of supports.

*(London Gazette, no. 29202, 23 June 1915)*



# GORDON MURIEL FLOWERDEW



NAME

FLOWERDEW, Gordon Muriel

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

2 January 1885

PLACE OF BIRTH

Billingford, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

Lord Strathcona's Horse  
(Royal Canadians), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

31 March 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Moreuil, France

# G

ordon Muriel Flowerdew was born in Billingford, England, on 2 January 1885. He came to Saskatchewan in 1903 and later moved to British Columbia. During the First World War, he was commissioned as an officer in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

On 30 March 1918 near Moreuil Wood in France, Lieutenant Flowerdew was leading "C" Squadron of the Strathconas. He saw two lines of German infantry positions supported by machine guns, one line about 200 metres behind the other. Flowerdew ordered the squadron to charge. The Canadian cavalymen passed over both of the German lines, killing many of the enemy soldiers with their swords. Wheeling about, Flowerdew led his men back over the lines again, which caused the Germans to break and retreat. By this point, 70 per cent of the squadron had been killed or injured. Flowerdew himself was badly wounded. Nevertheless, the survivors managed to establish themselves in the positions formerly held by the enemy and were able to hold them.

Lieutenant Flowerdew died of his wounds the following day. To honour his spirited leadership on this occasion, he was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.





TITLE: **CHARGE OF FLOWERDEEW'S SQUADRON**  
ARTIST: **ALFRED MUNNINGS**

NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF THE CANADIAN CAVALRY INVOLVED IN THIS ATTACK AGAINST GERMAN MACHINE-GUN POSITIONS AT MOREUIL WOOD ON 30 MARCH 1918 WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED. THIS INCLUDED LIEUTENANT G.M. FLOWERDEW, LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE, WHO WAS AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR LEADING THE CHARGE. UNABLE TO BREAK THE TRENCH DEADLOCK AND OF LITTLE USE AT THE FRONT, CAVALRY REMAINED BEHIND THE LINES FOR MUCH OF THE WAR. DURING THE GERMAN OFFENSIVES OF MARCH AND APRIL 1918, HOWEVER, THE CAVALRY PLAYED AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE OPEN WARFARE THAT TEMPORARILY CONFRONTED THE RETREATING BRITISH FORCES.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

24 APRIL, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and dash when in command of a squadron detailed for special service of a very important nature. On reaching the first objective, Lieutenant Flowerdeew saw two lines of the enemy, each about sixty strong, with machine guns in the centre and flanks, one line being about two hundred yards behind the other. Realising the critical nature of the operation and how much depended upon it, Lieutenant Flowerdeew ordered a troop under Lieutenant Harvey, V.C., to dismount and carry out a special movement while he led the remaining three troops to the charge. The squadron (less one troop) passed over both lines, killing many of the enemy with the sword; and wheeling

about galloped at them again. Although the squadron had then lost about 70 per cent of its numbers, killed and wounded, from rifle and machine-gun fire directed on it from the front and both flanks, the enemy broke and retired. The survivors of the squadron then established themselves in a position where they were joined, after much hand-to-hand fighting, by Lieutenant Harvey's party. Lieutenant Flowerdeew was dangerously wounded through both thighs during the operation, but continued to cheer on his men. There can be no doubt that this officer's great valour was the prime factor in the capture of the position.

*(London Gazette, no. 30648, 24 April 1918)*



# BENJAMIN GEARY



NAME

GEARY, Benjamin

RANK

Second Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

29 June 1891

PLACE OF BIRTH

London, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

1914

UNIT

4th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment,  
British Army

DATE OF DEATH

26 May 1976

PLACE OF DEATH

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

**B**enjamin Geary was born in London, England, on 29 June 1891. When the First World War broke out in 1914, he enlisted in the British Army's East Surrey Regiment and was soon sent to the Western Front.

Lieutenant Geary earned the Victoria Cross while in action at Hill 60 near Ypres, Belgium. On the night of 20–21 April 1915, while leading his men in the defence of a shell crater position that was coming under attack, Geary was shot in the head and blinded in one eye. He was evacuated to England to recover and, remarkably, did return to active service. He was wounded again in 1918 but survived the war.

Geary became a clergyman after the conflict and served as a chaplain in the British Army before emigrating to Canada in the late 1920s. When the Second World War erupted in 1939, Geary enlisted in the Canadian Army, where he would serve as a major. After the war, he would go on to be the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Ontario Legislature for many years.

Geary died in 1976 and is buried in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

15 OCTOBER, 1915

The crater was first exposed to very heavy artillery fire which broke down the defences, and afterwards throughout the night to repeated bomb attacks which filled it with dead and wounded. Each attack was, however, repulsed mainly owing to the splendid personal gallantry and example of Second Lieutenant Geary. At one time he used a rifle with great effect, at another

threw hand grenades, and exposed himself with entire disregard to danger in order to see by the light of flares where the enemy were coming on. In the intervals between the attacks he spent his whole time arranging for the ammunition supply and for reinforcements.

*(London Gazette, 15 October, 1915)*

VIEW LOOKING BACKWARDS FROM FRONT-LINE  
TRENCHES ON HILL 60.



# HERMAN JAMES GOOD



NAME

GOOD, Herman James

RANK

Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

29 November 1887

PLACE OF BIRTH

South Bathurst, New Brunswick

ENLISTMENT DATE

June 1915

UNIT

13th Infantry Battalion  
(Royal Highlanders of Canada), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

18 April 1969

PLACE OF DEATH

Bathurst, New Brunswick

Herman James Good was born in South Bathurst, New Brunswick, on 29 November 1887. During the First World War, he served in France with the 13th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On 8 August 1918, the opening day of the attack by the Canadian Corps at Amiens, the advance of Corporal Good's company was checked by fire from three German machine guns emplaced in Hangard Wood, near Villers-Bretonneux. Good charged the position alone, killing several of the enemy and making prisoners of the remaining defenders. Later that day, when the advance had penetrated deep into the German lines, he came upon an enemy battery of 5.9-inch guns. Collecting three men from his section, Good assaulted the battery in the face of point-blank fire and captured the crews of all three guns. Corporal Good's actions on this occasion earned him the Victoria Cross.

Good died in Bathurst, New Brunswick, on 18 April 1969.

# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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27 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in attack his company was held up by heavy fire from three machine guns, which were seriously delaying the advance. Realising the gravity of the situation, this N.C.O. dashed forward alone, killing several of the garrison and capturing the remainder.

Later on Cpl. Good, while alone, encountered a battery of 5.9-inch guns, which were in action at the time. Collecting three men of his section, he charged the battery under point-blank fire and captured the entire crews of three guns.

*(London Gazette, no. 30922, 27 September 1918)*



# MILTON FOWLER GREGG



NAME

GREGG, Milton Fowler

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

10 April 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Mountain Dale, New Brunswick

ENLISTMENT DATE

November 1914

UNIT

Royal Canadian Regiment

DATE OF DEATH

13 March 1978

PLACE OF DEATH

Fredericton, New Brunswick

**M**

ilton Fowler Gregg was born in Mountain Dale, New Brunswick, on 10 April 1892. In November 1914, he enlisted in the 13th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Gregg eventually received a commission in the field as an officer. He was decorated with the Military Cross and was later awarded a bar for his conduct at Lens and Arras, France, in 1917 and 1918 respectively.

Lieutenant Gregg earned the Victoria Cross for his actions between 27 September and 1 October 1918 while serving with the Royal Canadian Regiment near Cambrai, France. He led his men in an advance under intense fire through uncut enemy barbed wire. When the Germans mounted a strong counterattack and his supply of grenades was exhausted, Lieutenant Gregg secured more grenades and rejoined his men. Despite suffering two wounds, he continued to lead them against the enemy trenches, which they cleared.

Gregg died in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on 13 March 1978.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

6 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations near Cambrai, 27th September to 1st October, 1918.

On 28th September, when the advance of the brigade was held up by fire from both flanks and by thick, uncut wire, he crawled forward alone and explored the wire until he found a small gap, through which he subsequently led his men, and forced an entry into the enemy trench. The enemy counter-attacked in force, and, through lack of bombs, the situation became critical. Although wounded, Lt. Gregg returned alone under terrific fire and collected a further supply. Then rejoining his party,

which by this time was much reduced in numbers, and, in spite of a second wound, he reorganised his men and led them with the greatest determination against the enemy trenches, which he finally cleared.

He personally killed or wounded 11 of the enemy and took 25 prisoners, in addition to 12 machine guns captured in this trench. Remaining with his company in spite of wounds, he again on the 30th September led his men in attack until severely wounded. The outstanding valour of this officer saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue.

*(London Gazette, no. 31108, 6 January 1919)*

TOP: DEPARTURE OF THE 3RD CANADIAN DIVISION PER S.S. *ADRIATIC* FROM LIVERPOOL, 1 MARCH 1919. R.C.R. COLOURS WITH COLONEL HILL O.C. NEXT TO ADJUTANT LIEUT. GREGG, V.C., NEAREST CAMERA.

BOTTOM: OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT. OCTOBER 1918.





# FREDERICK WILLIAM HALL



#### NAME

HALL, Frederick William

#### RANK

Company Sergeant Major

#### DATE OF BIRTH

21 February 1885

#### PLACE OF BIRTH

Kilkenny, Ireland

#### ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

#### UNIT

8th Infantry Battalion (90th Rifles), CEF

#### DATE OF DEATH

24 April 1915

#### PLACE OF DEATH

Near Ypres, Belgium

**F**rederick William Hall was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, on 21 February 1885. At the beginning of the First World War, he was living in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he enlisted in the 8th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Company Sergeant Major Hall was awarded the Victoria Cross on 24 April 1915 for giving up his life to save a wounded comrade during the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium. When the wounded man, who was lying 15 metres from the trench, called for help, Hall and two other soldiers endeavoured to reach him despite being subjected to very heavy enemy gunfire. This first attempt failed, and the two men accompanying Hall were wounded. Hall then made a second foray alone and was in the process of lifting up the wounded man when he was fatally struck in the head.

Company Sergeant Major Hall was one of three First World War recipients of the Victoria Cross whose homes were on Pine Street in Winnipeg. The other two were Leo Clarke (page 52) and Robert Shankland (page 156). In honour of the three men, Pine Street was renamed Valour Road, reflecting the inscription on the medal: "For Valour."

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

23 JUNE, 1915

On 24th April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of Ypres, when a wounded man who was lying some 15 yards from the trench called for help, Company Serjeant-Major Hall endeavoured to reach him in the face of a very heavy enfilade fire which was being poured in by the enemy. The first attempt failed, and a Non-commissioned Officer

and private soldier who were attempting to give assistance were both wounded. Company Serjeant-Major Hall then made a second most gallant attempt, and was in the act of lifting up the wounded man to bring him in when he fell mortally wounded in the head.

*(London Gazette, no. 29202, 23 June 1915)*



TOP: "THE SECOND BATTLE OF YPRES, 22 APRIL TO MAY 1915." PAINTING BY MAJOR JACK.

BOTTOM: 2ND CANADIAN HEAVY BATTERY IN ACTION. JULY 1917.



# ROBERT HILL HANNA



NAME

HANNA, Robert Hill

RANK

Company Sergeant Major

DATE OF BIRTH

6 August 1886

PLACE OF BIRTH

Kilkeel, County Down, Ireland

ENLISTMENT DATE

November 1914

UNIT

29th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

15 June 1967

PLACE OF DEATH

Mount Lehman, British Columbia

**R**obert Hanna was born in Kilkeel, Ireland, on 6 August 1886 and came to Canada in 1905. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War, and by the summer of 1917 he was a company sergeant major (CSM) serving with the 29th Infantry Battalion.

On 21 August 1917, Hanna's company was attempting to overpower a German strongpoint on Hill 70, near Lens, France. During the course of three assaults on the enemy position, the company had suffered several casualties, including the loss of all of its officers. While the remaining soldiers continued to take casualties from the heavy machine gun fire coming from the strongpoint, Hanna calmly collected a party of men and led them in a fourth attack, rushing through the dense barbed wire protecting the position. When he arrived inside the strongpoint, Hanna bayoneted three of the enemy and clubbed a fourth with his rifle, enabling the capture of the position and its machine gun. For the bravery and leadership he demonstrated in this action, CSM Hanna received the Victoria Cross.

Hanna died in Mount Lehman, British Columbia, on 15 June 1967.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

8 NOVEMBER, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when his company met with most severe enemy resistance and all the company officers became casualties. A strong point, heavily protected by wire and held by a machine gun, had beaten off three assaults of the company with heavy casualties. This Warrant Officer under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, coolly collected a party of men, and leading them against this strong point, rushed through the wire and personally bayoneted three of the enemy and brained the fourth, capturing the position and silencing the machine gun.

This most courageous action, displayed courage and personal bravery of the highest order at this most critical moment of the attack, was responsible for the capture of a most important tactical point, and but for his daring action and determined handling of a desperate situation the attack would not have succeeded.

C.S./M. Hanna's outstanding gallantry, personal courage and determined leading of his company is deserving of the highest possible reward.

*(London Gazette, no. 30372, 8 November 1917)*

TOP: CADET ROBERT HANNA, V.C. (RIGHT) WITH PTE. M.J. O'ROURKE, V.C.

BOTTOM: CADET R. HANNA, V.C. (CENTRE)



# FREDERICK MAURICE WATSON HARVEY



NAME

HARVEY, Frederick Maurice Watson

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

1 September 1888

PLACE OF BIRTH

Athboy, County Meath, Ireland

ENLISTMENT DATE

May 1916

UNIT

Lord Strathcona's Horse  
(Royal Canadians), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

21 August 1980

PLACE OF DEATH

Calgary , Alberta

**F**rederick Maurice Watson Harvey was born on 1 September 1888 in Athboy, Ireland. He came to Canada in 1908 and eventually settled in Medicine Hat, Alberta. During the First World War, he served initially in the Canadian Expeditionary Force with the 13th Canadian Mounted Rifles, transferring in November 1916 to Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians).

Lieutenant Harvey earned the Victoria Cross for his conduct on 27 March 1917 during an attack on the village of Guyencourt, France. German soldiers defending the village opened fire with rifles and a machine gun at very close range on Harvey's leading troop as it advanced, causing heavy casualties. Lieutenant Harvey ran forward well ahead of his men, jumped the barbed wire protecting the enemy position, shot the machine gunner, and captured the gun.

Harvey later received the Military Cross for his part in the Strathcona's Horse charge against German positions near Moreuil Wood on 30 March 1918, the same engagement for which Gordon Flowerdew (page 70) was awarded the Victoria Cross. The French government also conferred on Harvey the Croix de Guerre.

After the war, Harvey joined the Canadian Army Permanent Force, and in 1938 he was promoted to command his regiment.

Harvey died in Calgary, Alberta, on 21 August 1980.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

8 JUNE, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During an attack by his regiment on a village a party of the enemy ran forward to a wired trench just in front of the village and opened rapid rifle and machine gun fire at a very close range, causing heavy casualties in the leading troop.

At this critical moment, when the enemy showed no intention whatever

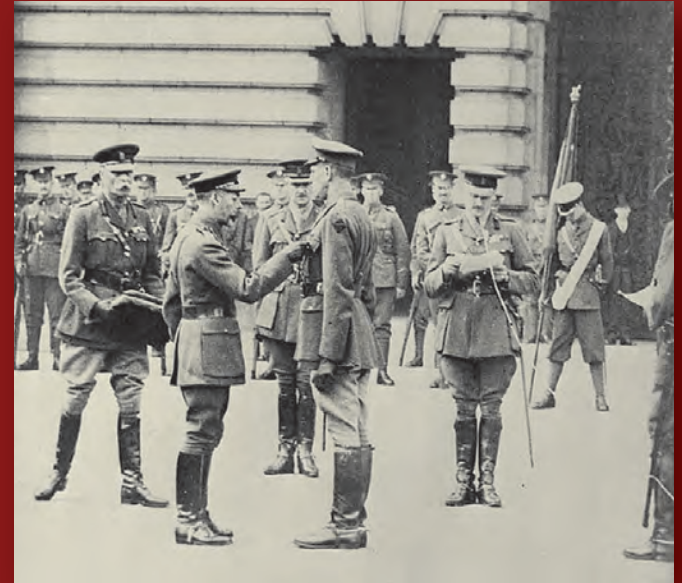
of retiring and fire was still intense, Lt. Harvey, who was in command of the leading troop, ran forward well ahead of his men and dashed at the trench, still fully manned, jumped the wire, shot the machine gunner and captured the gun.

His most courageous act undoubtedly had a decisive effect on the success of the operation.

*(London Gazette, no. 30122, 8 June 1917)*

TOP: LT. HARVEY, V.C., OF LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE WITH REGIMENTAL STANDARD PRESENTED BY LADY STRATHCONA.

BOTTOM: HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V DECORATING LT. HARVEY, L.S.H., WITH THE V.C.





# FREDERICK HOBSON



NAME

HOBSON, Frederick

RANK

Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

23 September 1873

PLACE OF BIRTH

London, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

November 1914

UNIT

20th (Central Ontario) Infantry Battalion,  
CEF

DATE OF DEATH

18 August 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Lens, France

**F**rederick Hobson was born in London, England, on 23 September 1873. After seeing action with the British Army during the South African War (1899–1902), he came to Canada and settled in Galt (now Cambridge), Ontario. He was 41 years old when he went to the recruiting office shortly after the First World War began, but he gave his year of birth as 1875 so that he would be allowed to enlist in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On 18 August 1917, Sergeant Hobson was serving with the 20th Infantry Battalion on Hill 70 near Lens, France. During a German counterattack on the Canadian lines, a shell explosion buried a Lewis light machine gun in a forward position and killed all but one of the crew. Hobson hurried to the site, dug out the Lewis gun, and got it back into action against the attacking enemy soldiers. When the gun jammed, Hobson, though wounded, left the gunner to clear the stoppage and advanced alone to confront the Germans. Using his bayonet and rifle butt, he held them at bay until he was killed by a rifle shot. By that time, the Lewis gun was again firing, and shortly afterwards reinforcements arrived to defeat the counterattack.

For these actions, Sergeant Hobson was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

17 OCTOBER, 1917

During a strong enemy counter-attack a Lewis gun in a forward post in a communication trench leading to the enemy lines, was buried by a shell, and the crew, with the exception of one man, killed.

Sjt. Hobson, though not a gunner, grasping the great importance of the post, rushed from his trench, dug out the gun, and got it into action against the enemy who were now advancing down the trench and across the open.

A jam caused the gun to stop firing. Though wounded, he left the gunner to correct the stoppage, rushed forward at the

advancing enemy and, with bayonet and clubbed rifle, single handed, held them back until he himself was killed by a rifle shot. By this time however, the Lewis gun was again in action and reinforcements shortly afterwards arriving, the enemy were beaten off.

The valour and devotion to duty displayed by this non-commissioned Officer gave the gunner the time required to again get the gun into action, and saved a most serious situation.

*(London Gazette, no. 30338, 17 October 1917)*

CANADIAN SOLDIERS IN CAPTURED GERMAN TRENCH DURING THE BATTLE OF HILL 70 IN AUGUST 1917. THE SOLDIERS ON THE LEFT ARE SCANNING THE SKY FOR AIRCRAFT, WHILE THE SOLDIER IN THE CENTRE APPEARS TO BE REPACKING HIS GAS RESPIRATOR INTO THE CARRYING POUCH ON HIS CHEST. DUST CAKES THEIR CLOTHES, HELMETS, AND WEAPONS.



# THOMAS WILLIAM HOLMES



NAME

HOLMES, Thomas William

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

14 October 1898

PLACE OF BIRTH

Montreal, Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1915

UNIT

4th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

4 January 1950

PLACE OF DEATH

Toronto, Ontario

**T**homas William Holmes was born in Montreal, Quebec, on 14 October 1898 (though he would lie about his age when enlisting, giving 17 August 1897 as his date of birth). At an early age he moved with his family to Owen Sound, Ontario. During the First World War, he served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On 26 October 1917, the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles was taking part in the opening assault by the Canadian Corps on German defences near Passchendaele, Belgium. Heavy machine gun and rifle fire from a German “pillbox” fortification had stopped the advance by the Canadians on the right flank and had inflicted many casualties. Alone and on his own initiative, Private Holmes ran forward and, with two grenades, killed and wounded the crews of two of the enemy machine guns. Returning for another grenade, he again attacked the pillbox alone and under heavy fire. Holmes threw his grenade into the entrance of the pillbox and compelled the surrender of its 19 occupants. In so doing, he cleared the way for the advance to resume. For his conduct in this action, Private Holmes received the Victoria Cross.

Holmes died in Toronto, Ontario, on 4 January 1950.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and resource when the right flank of our attack was held up by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire from a 'pill-box' strong point. Heavy casualties were producing a critical situation when Pte. Holmes, on his own initiative and single-handed, ran forward and threw two bombs, killing and wounding the crews of two machine guns. He then returned to his comrades, secured another

bomb, and again rushed forward alone under heavy fire and threw the bomb into the entrance of the 'pill-box,' causing the nineteen occupants to surrender.

By this act of valour at a very critical moment Pte. Holmes undoubtedly cleared the way for the advance of our troops and saved the lives of many of his comrades.

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*

RIGHT: PTE. T.W. HOLMES, V.C., 4TH C.M.R., 19 YEARS OLD.

PRIVATE THOMAS W. HOLMES (AT RIGHT) OF THE 4TH CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES WAS AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR HIS ACTIONS ON 26 OCTOBER 1917, AT PASSCHENDAELE, BELGIUM, WHEN HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY SILENCED A GERMAN MACHINE GUN PILLBOX THAT WAS HOLDING UP THE CANADIAN ADVANCE. HE IS PHOTOGRAPHED WEARING THE RIBBON FOR THE V.C., AND IS THE YOUNGEST CANADIAN EVER TO WIN THIS AWARD.





# SAMUEL LEWIS HONEY



NAME

HONEY, Samuel Lewis

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

9 February 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH

Conn, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

January 1915

UNIT

78th Infantry Battalion  
(Winnipeg Grenadiers), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

30 September 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Bourlon Wood, France

Samuel Lewis Honey was born in Conn, Ontario, on 9 February 1894. Late in January 1915, he enlisted as a private soldier in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Honey received the Military Medal early in 1917, and in April that year, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions during the attack on Vimy Ridge by the Canadian Corps. He was subsequently commissioned as an officer and served with the 78th Infantry Battalion.

Lieutenant Honey was awarded the Victoria Cross for his exemplary conduct during offensive operations at Bourlon Wood in France from 27 to 30 September 1918. Taking command of his company after all of the other officers had become casualties, he skilfully reorganized the advance while under heavy German fire and gained his objective. When his company began to suffer casualties from enfilading machine gun fire, Honey located the guns and, alone, attacked them and took ten enemy soldiers prisoner. Honey and his company consolidated the position they had captured and subsequently repelled four German counterattacks. Later, after making a solitary reconnaissance at night to find an enemy post, he returned with a party of his men and captured it. On 29 September, he again led his company against a strong German position.

Lieutenant Honey died on 30 September of wounds received that day.



BOURLON WOOD FROM THE VILLAGE. ADVANCE  
EAST OF ARRAS.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

6 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery during the Bourlon Wood operations, 27th September to 2nd October, 1918.

On 27th September, when his company commander and all other officers of his company had become casualties, Lt. Honey took command and skilfully reorganised under very severe fire. He continued the advance with great dash and gained the objective. Then finding that his company was suffering casualties from enfilade machine-gun fire he located the machine-gun nest and rushed it single-handed, capturing the guns and ten prisoners.

Subsequently he repelled four enemy counter-attacks and after dark again went out alone, and having located an enemy post, led a party which captured the post and three guns.

On the 29th September he led his company against a strong enemy position with great skill and daring and continued in the succeeding days of the battle to display the same high example of valour and self-sacrifice. He died of wounds received during the last day of the attack by his battalion.

*(London Gazette, no. 31108, 6 January 1919)*





# BELLENDEN SEYMOUR HUTCHESON



NAME

HUTCHESON, Bellenden Seymour

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

16 December 1883

PLACE OF BIRTH

Mount Carmel, Illinois

ENLISTMENT DATE

November 1915

UNIT

Canadian Army Medical Corps  
75th (Mississauga) Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

9 April 1954

PLACE OF DEATH

Cairo, Illinois

**B**ellenden Seymour Hutcheson was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois, on 16 December 1883. A graduate of the Northwestern University Medical School, Hutcheson practised medicine for several years in the American West. After the First World War began, he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was attached to the 75th (Mississauga) Battalion as its medical officer.

On 2 September 1918, Captain Hutcheson was treating wounded soldiers under intense shelling and small arms fire in the Drocourt-Quéant line near Cagnicourt, France. After ensuring that all of the injured men had received care, he attended to a seriously wounded officer and evacuated him to safety. Shortly after, he spotted a wounded sergeant in front of the Canadian lines and rushed forward in full view of the enemy to tend to his injuries.

For his devotion to duty on this occasion, Captain Hutcheson was awarded the Victoria Cross. For his conduct during another action, he also received the Military Cross.

Dr Hutcheson died in Cairo, Illinois, on 9 April 1954.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 DECEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on September 2nd, when under most intense shell, machine-gun and rifle fire, he went through the Quéant-Drocourt Support Line with the battalion. Without hesitation and with utter disregard of personal safety he remained on the field until every wounded man had been attended to. He dressed the wounds of a seriously wounded officer under terrific machine-gun and shell fire, and, with the assistance of prisoners and of his own men, succeeded

in evacuating him to safety, despite the fact that the bearer party suffered heavy casualties.

Immediately afterwards he rushed forward, in full view of the enemy, under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, to tend a wounded serjeant, and, having placed him in a shell-hole, dressed his wounds. Captain Hutcheson performed many similar gallant acts, and, by his coolness and devotion to duty, many lives were saved.

*(London Gazette, no. 31067, 14 December 1918)*

TOP: OFFICERS OF THE 75TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION. JULY 1918. B.S. HUTCHESON IS IN THE SECOND ROW ON THE FAR RIGHT.

BOTTOM: TWO MEN OF THE 75TH INFANTRY BATTALION WITH THEIR PRISONER NEAR THE LAST MILE STONE TO CAMBRAI. ADVANCE EAST OF ARRAS. OCTOBER 1918.





# JOSEPH THOMAS KAEBLE



NAME

KAEBLE, Joseph Thomas

RANK

Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

5 May 1893

PLACE OF BIRTH

St-Moïse, Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1916

UNIT

22nd (Canadien-Français)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

9 June 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Neuville-Vitasse, France

Joseph Thomas Kaeble was born in St-Moïse, Quebec, on 5 May 1893. He had earned his living as a mechanic before the First World War, when he enlisted in the 22nd Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Corporal Kaeble was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for demonstrating singular bravery in France on 8 and 9 June 1918. He was in charge of a machine gun section in the Canadian line close to Neuville-Vitasse, near Arras, when an intense bombardment fell on the trenches, heralding a strong enemy raid. By the time the shells stopped falling, all members of his section but one were casualties. Seeing some 50 Germans advancing toward his position, Corporal Kaeble jumped over the parapet of his trench, firing a Lewis machine gun at the approaching enemy. Although repeatedly struck, Kaeble continued to empty one magazine after another into the attackers until he fell back into the trench severely wounded. He died shortly afterwards. The repulse of the enemy raid at this point was thanks to his courage.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

16 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and extraordinary devotion to duty when in charge of a Lewis gun section in the front line trenches, on which a strong enemy raid was attempted.

During an intense bombardment Cpl. Kaeble remained at the parapet with his Lewis gun shouldered ready for action, the field of fire being very short. As soon as the barrage lifted from the front line, about fifty of the enemy advanced towards his post. By this time the whole of his section except one had become casualties. Cpl. Kaeble jumped over the parapet, and holding his Lewis gun at the hip, emptied one magazine after another into the advancing enemy, and, although wounded several

times by fragments of shells and bombs, he continued to fire, and entirely blocked the enemy by his determined stand. Finally, firing all the time, he fell backwards into the trench, mortally wounded. While lying on his back in the trench he fired his last cartridges over the parapet at the retreating Germans, and before losing consciousness shouted to the wounded about him: 'Keep it up boys; do not let them get through! We must stop them!' The complete repulse of the enemy attack at this point was due to the remarkable personal bravery and self-sacrifice of this gallant non-commissioned officer, who died of his wounds shortly afterwards.

*(London Gazette, no. 30903, 16 September 1918)*



# GEORGE FRASER KERR



NAME

KERR, George Fraser

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

8 June 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH

Deseronto, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

3rd Infantry Battalion  
(The Toronto Regiment), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

8 December 1929

PLACE OF DEATH

Toronto, Ontario

George Fraser Kerr was born in Deseronto, Ontario, on 8 June 1894. Shortly after the First World War began, he enlisted as a private soldier in the 3rd Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Eventually commissioned as an officer, Kerr was twice wounded in action. He received the Military Medal and the Military Cross and Bar.

On 27 September 1918, Lieutenant Kerr was in command of the support company on the left flank of his battalion, which was advancing through Bournon Wood, near Cambrai, France. When a German machine gun blocked the way forward, Kerr handled his company with great skill by outflanking the enemy position without delay. Later in the day, his company's progress was again checked near the Arras-Cambrai road. Alone and in advance of his men, Kerr attacked the German strongpoint, capturing four machine guns and 31 prisoners.

For his courage and leadership on this occasion, Lieutenant Kerr was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Kerr died in Toronto, Ontario, on 8 December 1929.

George Fraser Kerr is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

6 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during the Bourslon Wood operations on 27th September, 1918, when in command of the left support company in attack.

He handled his company with great skill, and gave timely support by outflanking a machine-gun which was impeding the advance.

Later, near the Arras-Cambrai road, the advance was again held up by a strong point. Lt. Kerr, far in advance of his company, rushed this strong point single-handed and captured four machine-guns and thirty-one prisoners.

His valour throughout this engagement was an inspiring example to all.

*(London Gazette, no. 31108, 6 January 1919)*



TOP: BOURLON VILLAGE AND WOOD. ADVANCE EAST OF ARRAS.

BOTTOM: CANADIANS BLACKBERRYING IN BOURLON WOOD AFTER CAPTURING IT. ADVANCE EAST OF ARRAS. OCTOBER 1918.



# JOHN CHIPMAN KERR



NAME

KERR, John Chipman

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

11 January 1887

PLACE OF BIRTH

Fox River, Nova Scotia

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1915

UNIT

49th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

19 February 1963

PLACE OF DEATH

Port Moody, British Columbia

John Chipman Kerr was born in Fox River, Nova Scotia, on 11 January 1887. He served with the 49th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, in the First World War.

Kerr earned the Victoria Cross near Courcellette, France, on 16 September 1916, during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme. As first bayonet man in a bombing party advancing to attack German positions with hand grenades, he was 30 metres ahead of his comrades when he found himself exchanging grenades with the enemy. Although wounded, Private Kerr continued forward and compelled 62 soldiers to surrender.

At the beginning of the Second World War, Kerr joined the army once more, later transferring to the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Kerr died in Port Moody, British Columbia, on 19 February 1963. In 1951, a 2,600-metre peak in the Rocky Mountains was named after him.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

26 OCTOBER, 1916

For most conspicuous bravery. During a bombing attack he was acting as bayonet man, and, knowing that bombs were running short, he ran along the parapet under heavy fire until he was in close contact with the enemy, when he opened fire on them at point-blank range, and inflicted heavy loss.

The enemy, thinking they were surrounded, surrendered. Sixty-two prisoners

were taken and 250 yards of enemy trench captured.

Before carrying out this very plucky act one of Private Kerr's fingers had been blown off by a bomb.

Later, with two other men, he escorted back the prisoners under fire, and then returned to report himself for duty before having his wound dressed.

*(London Gazette, no. 29802, 26 October 1916)*



# CECIL JOHN KINROSS



NAME

KINROSS, Cecil John

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

17 February 1895

PLACE OF BIRTH

Harefield, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

October 1915

UNIT

49th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

21 June 1957

PLACE OF DEATH

Lougheed, Alberta

Cecil John Kinross was born near Uxbridge, England, on 17 February 1895. At the age of 16, he came with his family to Alberta to farm. During the First World War, he served with the 49th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Before Kinross received the Victoria Cross he had been wounded, but he was able to return to his unit within a month.

On 30 October 1917 near Passchendaele, Belgium, Kinross's company came under intense German artillery and machine gun fire. Carefully surveying the situation, he took off all of his equipment save for his rifle and a bandolier of ammunition and set out alone over open ground in daylight. Kinross then charged the machine gun emplacement, killed the crew of six, and destroyed the weapon. Inspired by his action, his company advanced some 300 metres and established itself in an important new position. For his exemplary conduct, Kinross was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was seriously wounded and did not return to front-line duties.

Kinross died in Lougheed, Alberta, on 21 June 1957. Mount Kinross in the Rocky Mountains near Jasper, Alberta, was named in his honour.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery in action during prolonged and severe operations.

Shortly after the attack was launched, the company to which he belonged came under intense artillery fire, and further advance was held up by a very severe fire from an enemy machine gun. Pte. Kinross, making a careful survey of the situation, deliberately divested himself of all his equipment save his rifle and bandolier and, regardless of his personal safety, advanced alone over the open ground in broad

daylight, charged the enemy machine gun, killing the crew of six, and seized and destroyed the gun. His superb example and courage instilled the greatest confidence in his company, and enabled a further advance of 300 yards to be made and a highly important position to be established.

Throughout the day he showed marvellous coolness and courage, fighting with the utmost aggressiveness against heavy odds until seriously wounded.

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*



# ARTHUR GEORGE KNIGHT



NAME

KNIGHT, Arthur George

RANK

Acting Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

26 June 1886

PLACE OF BIRTH

Haywards Heath, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1914

UNIT

10th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

3 September 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Villers-lès-Cagnicourt, France

Arthur George Knight was born in Haywards Heath, England, on 26 June 1886 and came to Canada in 1911. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in December 1914. Knight was sent overseas in 1915 and joined the 10th Infantry Battalion. In November 1917, he received the Croix de Guerre from the Belgian government.

After taking part in an unsuccessful attack on German positions near Cagnicourt, France, on 2 September 1918, Acting Sergeant Knight led a bombing section forward under heavy fire and engaged the enemy with hand grenades at close quarters. Seeing that the way was still blocked, he dashed ahead alone, bayoneting several of the enemy soldiers and forcing the remainder to retreat in confusion. When his platoon resumed its advance into the German trenches, Knight spotted a group of about 30 enemy soldiers who were retiring into a deep tunnel leading off the trench. Again he hurried forward alone to confront the enemy, killing an officer and two non-commissioned officers, and capturing 20 other ranks. Later that day, when the progress of his platoon was checked yet again, Knight single-handedly routed the German defenders. By now seriously wounded, he was taken to the rear for treatment. He died of his wounds the following day.

For his exemplary conduct, Acting Sergeant Knight was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

15 NOVEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative, and devotion to duty when, after an unsuccessful attack, Sjt. Knight led a bombing section forward, under very heavy fire of all descriptions, and engaged the enemy at close quarters. Seeing that his party continued to be held up, he dashed forward alone, bayoneting several of the enemy machine-gunners and trench mortar crews, and forcing the remainder to retire in confusion. He then brought forward a Lewis gun and directed his fire on the retreating enemy, inflicting many casualties.

In the subsequent advance of his platoon in pursuit, Sjt. Knight saw a party of about thirty of the enemy go into a deep

tunnel which led off the trench. He again dashed forward alone, and, having killed one officer and two N.C.O.'s, captured twenty other ranks. Subsequently he routed, single-handed, another enemy party which was opposing the advance of his platoon.

On each occasion he displayed the greatest valour under fire at very close range, and by his example of courage, gallantry, and initiative was a wonderful inspiration to all.

This very gallant N.C.O. was subsequently fatally wounded.

*(London Gazette, no. 31012, 15 November 1918)*



# FILIP KONOWAL



NAME  
KONOWAL, Filip

RANK  
Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH  
25 March 1887

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Kedeski, Russia (now Ukraine)

ENLISTMENT DATE  
July 1915

UNIT  
47th (British Columbia)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH  
3 June 1959

PLACE OF DEATH  
Ottawa, Ontario



Of Ukrainian heritage, Filip Konowal was born in Kedeski, Russia, on 25 March 1887 and came to Canada about 1913. Having been trained as a bayonet instructor, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915, served with the 47th Infantry Battalion, and eventually was promoted to the rank of corporal.

Corporal Konowal earned the Victoria Cross for his actions from 22 to 24 August 1917 while leading his section in overcoming German resistance on Hill 70, near Lens, France. During these operations, Konowal himself killed at least 16 of the enemy. Arriving at one of his battalion's objectives, he realized that a machine gun was holding up the right flank of the Canadian attack. Konowal assaulted the German position, killed the crew, and returned with the machine gun. The next day, he attacked another machine gun emplacement and killed three enemy soldiers before destroying the position and the gun with explosives. Corporal Konowal then continued his advance until he was severely wounded.

After he recovered, Konowal was for a time assigned to the Military Attaché Office at the Russian Embassy in London, England, before enrolling as a sergeant with the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force. He died in Ottawa, Ontario, on 3 June 1959.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

26 NOVEMBER, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership when in charge of a section in attack. His section had the difficult task of mopping up cellars, craters and machine-gun emplacements. Under his able direction all resistance was overcome successfully, and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. In one cellar he himself bayoneted three enemy and attacked single-handed seven others in a crater, killing them all.

On reaching the objective, a machine-gun was holding up the right flank, causing many casualties. Cpl. Konowal rushed forward and entered the emplacement, killed

the crew, and brought the gun back to our lines.

The next day he again attacked single-handed another machine-gun emplacement, killed three of the crew, and destroyed the gun and emplacement with explosives.

This non-commissioned officer alone killed at least sixteen of the enemy, and during the two days' actual fighting carried on continuously his good work until severely wounded.

*(London Gazette, no. 30400, 26 November 1917)*



TOP: DRESSING WOUNDED CANADIANS DURING ADVANCE TO HILL 70. AUGUST 1917.

MIDDLE: A STEEL AND CONCRETE SNIPER'S POST IN GROUND CAPTURED BY CANADIANS IN RECENT PUSH, HILL 70. AUGUST 1917.

BOTTOM: A YOUNG BOCHE OFFICER CAPTURED BY CANADIANS ON HILL 70. AUGUST 1917.



# OKILL MASSEY LEARMONTH



NAME

LEARMONTH, Okill Massey

RANK

Major

DATE OF BIRTH

20 February 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH

Quebec City, Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

2nd (Eastern Ontario)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

19 August 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Lens, France



Okill Massey Learmonth was born in Quebec City, Quebec, on 20 February 1894. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a private soldier in November 1914 and was commissioned as an officer in June 1916.

On 18 August 1917, Major Learmonth was serving as a company commander in the 2nd Infantry Battalion on Hill 70, near Lens, France. On that day, a massive German counterattack on the Canadian positions caused his company to recoil briefly. Learmonth threw himself into the defence by standing on the parapet of the Canadian trenches and hurling hand grenades at the enemy attackers, including German grenades that he actually caught and threw back at the enemy. Despite being seriously wounded, he maintained his exposed position on the parapet in order to personally direct the defence. When Learmonth was unable to carry on, he insisted on remaining and continued to give direction to his junior officers. Finally, he was forced to hand over his duties and was evacuated to a hospital in the rear, where he died of his wounds the following day.

For his bravery and leadership on this occasion, Major Learmonth was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

8 NOVEMBER, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and exceptional devotion to duty. During a determined counter-attack on our new positions, this officer, when his company was momentarily surprised, instantly charged and personally disposed of the attackers. Later, he carried on a tremendous fight with the advancing enemy. Although under intense barrage fire and mortally wounded, he stood on the parapet of the trench, bombed the enemy continuously and directed the defence in such a manner as to infuse a

spirit of utmost resistance into his men.

On several occasions this very brave officer actually caught bombs thrown at him by the enemy and threw them back. When he was unable by reason of his wounds to carry on the fight he still refused to be carried out of the line, and continued to give instructions and invaluable advice to his junior officers, finally handing over all his duties before he was evacuated from the front line to the hospital where he died.

*(London Gazette, no. 30372, 8 November 1917)*

TOP: A STRETCHER-BEARER PARTY BRINGING UP WOUNDED FROM THE BOCHE LINES ON HILL 70. AUGUST 1917.



# GRAHAM THOMSON LYALL



NAME

LYALL, Graham Thomson

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

8 March 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Manchester, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1915

UNIT

102nd (North British Columbia)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

28 November 1941

PLACE OF DEATH

Mersa Matruh, Egypt

**G**raham Thomson Lyall was born in Manchester, England, on 8 March 1892. After coming to Canada and receiving his education in Toronto, Ontario, he worked as a mechanical engineer in the Niagara region. After the First World War began, Lyall enlisted in the 102nd Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Lieutenant Lyall earned the Victoria Cross on 27 September 1918 while leading his platoon in an advance through Bourlon Wood, near Cambrai, France. When the progress of his battalion's leading company was checked by a German strongpoint, Lyall and his men outflanked the position and captured 13 prisoners, a field gun, and four machine guns. Later that day, as his platoon, now weakened, was delayed by another enemy position, alone he charged the emplacement and took another 45 prisoners and five machine guns. Lyall then led his men to their final objective and consolidated it for the defence of his company, in the process securing 47 more prisoners. Finally, Lyall overwhelmed another strongly defended German position, capturing 80 prisoners and 17 machine guns.

Lyall died on 28 November 1941 while on active service in Egypt during the Second World War.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 DECEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leading during the operations north of Cambrai.

On September 27th, 1918, whilst leading his platoon against Bourlon Wood, he rendered invaluable support to the leading company, which was held up by a strong point, which he captured, by a flank movement, together with thirteen prisoners, one field gun and four machine guns.

Later, his platoon, now much weakened by casualties, was held up by machine guns at the southern end of Bourlon Wood. Collecting any man available, he led them towards the strong point, and springing forward alone, rushed the position single-handed and killed the officer in charge, subsequently capturing at this point

forty-five prisoners and five machine guns. Having made good his final objective, with a further capture of forty-seven prisoners, he consolidated his position and thus protected the remainder of the company.

On October 1st, in the neighbourhood of Blecourt, when in command of a weak company, by skilful dispositions he captured a strongly defended position, which yielded eighty prisoners and seventeen machine guns.

During two days of operations Lt. Lyall captured in all 3 officers, 182 other ranks, 26 machine guns and one field gun, exclusive of heavy casualties inflicted. He showed throughout the utmost valour and high powers of command.

*(London Gazette, no. 31067, 14 December 1918)*





# THAIN WENDELL MACDOWELL



NAME

MACDOWELL, Thain Wendell

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

16 September 1890

PLACE OF BIRTH

Lachute, Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE

February 1915

UNIT

38th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

29 March 1960

PLACE OF DEATH

Nassau, Bahamas

**T**hain Wendell MacDowell was born on 16 September 1890 in Lachute, Quebec. During the First World War, he served with the 38th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. MacDowell received the Distinguished Service Order for his actions during the Battle of the Somme.

Captain MacDowell was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conduct on 9 April 1917, the day that the Canadian Corps attacked and captured Vimy Ridge in France. On that day, as they advanced, MacDowell and two runners became separated from the rest of their unit. Deciding nevertheless to continue forward, he put two German machine guns out of action using hand grenades and then with his two runners entered a large dugout and proceeded along a tunnel. As they turned a corner, MacDowell and his two men suddenly found themselves face to face with a large group of enemy soldiers. By giving the impression that he had with him a superior force, Captain MacDowell was able to disarm and capture two officers and 75 men. His actions enabled his battalion to secure its objective, Hill 145.

MacDowell died in the Bahamas, at Nassau, on 29 March 1960.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

8 JUNE, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and indomitable resolution in face of heavy machine gun and shell fire.

By his initiative and courage this officer, with the assistance of two runners, was enabled in the face of great difficulties, to capture two machine guns, besides two officers and seventy-five men.

Although wounded in the hand, he continued for five days to hold the position gained, in spite of heavy shell fire, until eventually relieved by his battalion.

By his bravery and prompt action he undoubtedly succeeded in rounding up a very strong enemy machine post.

*(London Gazette, no. 30122, 8 June 1917)*



TOP: LIEUT.-COL. C.M. EDWARDS, D.S.O., AND MAJ. T.W. MACDOWELL, V.C., D.S.O., 38TH BATTALION.

BOTTOM: BASEBALL TEAM, O.T.C. BEXHILL CAPT. T.W. MACDOWELL, V.C., SEATED THIRD FROM LEFT AND CADET G.H. MULLIN, V.C., SEATED SIXTH FROM LEFT.





# JOHN MACGREGOR



NAME

MACGREGOR, John

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

11 February 1888

PLACE OF BIRTH

Cawdor, Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1915

UNIT

2nd Regiment, Canadian Mounted  
Rifles, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

9 June 1952

PLACE OF DEATH

Powell River, British Columbia

John MacGregor was born in Cawdor, Scotland, on 11 February 1888. During the First World War, he served with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, first as a private soldier and then as a commissioned officer. MacGregor earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal as a private, the Military Cross (MC) as a lieutenant, and a Bar to his MC as a captain.

MacGregor was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions from 29 September to 3 October 1918. When the advance of his company was stopped by intense German machine gun fire near Cambrai, France, he continued to move forward until he had located the guns. Despite the heavy fire, MacGregor then charged the machine guns and dealt with their crews using rifle and bayonet, killing four of the enemy and taking eight prisoners. Later, he gave useful support to neighbouring troops by commanding the leading waves of the advance and continuing forward while under heavy fire and facing stubborn resistance. MacGregor subsequently undertook a dangerous daylight reconnaissance that allowed his company to occupy Neuville-St-Rémy.

MacGregor died in Powell River, British Columbia, on 9 June 1952.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

6 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and self-sacrificing devotion to duty near Cambrai from 29th September to 3rd October, 1918.

He led his company under intense fire, and when the advance was checked by machine guns, although wounded, pushed on and located the enemy guns. He then ran forward in broad daylight, in face of heavy fire from all directions, and, with rifle and bayonet, single-handed, put the enemy crews out of action, killing four and taking eight prisoners. His prompt action saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue.

After reorganising his command under heavy fire he rendered the most useful support to neighbouring troops. When the enemy were showing stubborn resistance, he went along the line regardless of danger, organised the platoons, took command of the leading waves, and continued the advance. Later, after a personal daylight reconnaissance under heavy fire, he established his company in Neuville St. Remy, thereby greatly assisting the advance into Tilloy. Throughout the operations Capt. MacGregor displayed magnificent bravery and heroic leadership.

*(London Gazette, no. 31108, 6 January 1919)*



# GEORGE BURDON McKEAN



NAME

McKEAN, George Burdon

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

4 July 1888

PLACE OF BIRTH

Willington, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

January 1915

UNIT

14th Infantry Battalion  
(Royal Montreal Regiment), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

28 November 1926

PLACE OF DEATH

Potters Bar, England

**G**eorge Burdon McKean was born in County Durham, England, on 4 July 1888. He came to Canada in 1902, settling in Edmonton. He was a student at the University of Alberta when he enlisted as a private soldier in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. In the course of his military service, he received the Military Medal and, after he was commissioned as an officer, the Military Cross.

Lieutenant McKean earned the Victoria Cross while serving with the 14th Infantry Battalion near Gavrelle, France, on 27 and 28 April 1918. He was leading a party of scouts against a German trench that was being staunchly defended by troops using rifles and hand grenades. When his men hesitated, he ran forward alone and threw himself head first into the trench, killing two of the enemy with his revolver. Inspired by Lieutenant McKean's action, his men advanced and swept the German defenders aside, capturing both the trench and its remaining occupants.

McKean stayed in England after the war. On 28 November 1926, he was killed in an industrial accident.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

28 JUNE, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during a raid on the enemy's trenches.

Lt. McKean's party, which was operating on the right flank, was held up at a block in the communication trench by most intense fire from hand grenades and machine guns. This block, which was too close to our trenches to have been engaged by the preliminary bombardment, was well protected by wire and covered by a well protected machine gun 30 yards behind it. Realising that if this block were not destroyed, the success of the whole operation might be marred, he ran into the open to the right flank of the block, and with utter disregard of danger, leapt over the block head first on top of the enemy. Whilst lying on the ground on top of one of the enemy, another rushed at him with fixed bayonet; Lt. McKean shot him through the body and then shot the enemy underneath him, who

was struggling violently. This very gallant action enabled the position to be captured. Lt. McKean's supply of bombs ran out at this time, and he sent back to our front line for a fresh supply. Whilst waiting for them he engaged the enemy single-handed.

When the bombs arrived, he fearlessly rushed the second block, killing two of the enemy, capturing four others and drove the remaining garrison, including a hostile machine-gun section, into a dug-out. The dug-out, with its occupants and machine gun, was destroyed.

This officer's splendid bravery and dash undoubtedly saved many lives, for had not this position been captured, the whole of the raiding party would have been exposed to dangerous enfilading fire during the withdrawal. His leadership at all times has been beyond praise.

*(London Gazette, no. 30770, 28 June 1918)*



# HUGH DONALD McKENZIE



NAME  
McKENZIE, Hugh Donald

RANK  
Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH  
5 December 1885

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Liverpool, England

ENLISTMENT DATE  
August 1914

UNIT  
7th Machine Gun Company, CEF

DATE OF DEATH  
30 October 1917

PLACE OF DEATH  
Near Passchendaele, Belgium

Hugh McKenzie was born in Liverpool, England, on 5 December 1885 and grew up in Inverness, Scotland. He came to Canada in 1911. He enlisted in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) as a private soldier in August 1914. McKenzie rose to become a company sergeant major, and in January 1917 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He received the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and the French government awarded him the Croix de Guerre. He transferred from the PPCLI to the 7th Canadian Machine Gun Company.

On 30 October 1917 near Passchendaele, Belgium, McKenzie was serving with the 7th Machine Gun Company, leading a section of four machine guns in support of the PPCLI. Seeing that one of the PPCLI companies was hesitating to advance in the face of a nest of German machine guns positioned on commanding ground, he handed over the command of his section to a non-commissioned officer and went to rally the men of his old regiment. McKenzie organized an attack and captured the enemy position. However, he very soon realized that this position was itself swept by machine gun fire from a nearby German "pillbox" fortification in a dominant location. Faced with this challenge, McKenzie organized parties to capture the pillbox by attacking its flanks as well as conducting a frontal assault. He was killed while leading the frontal attack.

For his conduct on this occasion, McKenzie was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

13 FEBRUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in charge of a section of four machine guns accompanying the infantry in an attack.

Seeing that all the officers and most of the non-commissioned officers of an infantry company had become casualties, and that the men were hesitating before a nest of enemy machine guns, which were on commanding ground and causing them severe casualties, he handed over command of his guns to an N.C.O., rallied the infantry, organised an attack, and captured the strong point.

Finding that the position was swept by

machine-gun fire from a 'pill-box' which dominated all the ground over which the troops were advancing, Lt. MacKenzie made a reconnaissance and detailed flanking and frontal attacking parties which captured the 'pill-box,' he himself being killed while leading the frontal attack.

By his valour and leadership this gallant officer ensured the capture of these strong points and so saved the lives of many men and enabled the objectives to be attained.

*(London Gazette, no. 30523, 13 February 1918)*



# ALAN ARNETT McLEOD



NAME

McLEOD, Alan Arnett

RANK

Second Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

20 April 1899

PLACE OF BIRTH

Stonewall, Manitoba

ENLISTMENT DATE

April 1917

UNIT

No. 2 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps

DATE OF DEATH

6 November 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Winnipeg, Manitoba

# A

Ian Arnett McLeod was born in Stonewall, Manitoba, on 20 April 1899. He enrolled in the Royal Flying Corps at age 18 and was sent to France in August 1917.

On 27 March 1918, over Albert, France, Second Lieutenant McLeod and his observer, Lieutenant Arthur Hammond, shot down an enemy triplane and were immediately attacked by seven more. They brought down three of them, but their fuel tank was hit. The machine burst into flames, and both pilot and observer were badly wounded. McLeod climbed onto the wing and controlled the aircraft from there, side-slipping steeply to keep the flames away from the fuselage. When the machine finally crashed in No Man's Land, the young pilot, ignoring his own injuries, dragged his comrade from the burning wreckage and, under heavy fire, got him to comparative safety before collapsing from exhaustion and loss of blood.

McLeod died of his wounds at Winnipeg General Hospital on 6 November 1918.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

1 MAY, 1918

Whilst flying with his observer (Lt. A. W. Hammond, M.C.), attacking hostile formations by bombs and machine-gun fire, he was assailed at a height of 5,000 feet by eight enemy triplanes, which dived at him from all directions, firing from their front guns. By skilful manoeuvring he enabled his observer to fire bursts at each machine in turn, shooting three of them down out of control. By this time Lt. McLeod had received five wounds, and whilst continuing the engagement a bullet penetrated his petrol tank and set the machine on fire. He then climbed out on to the left bottom plane, controlling his machine from the side of the fuselage, and by side-slipping

steeply kept the flames to one side, thus enabling the observer to continue firing until the ground was reached. The observer had been wounded six times when the machine crashed in "No Man's Land," and 2nd Lt. McLeod, notwithstanding his own wounds, dragged him away from the burning wreckage at great personal risk from heavy machine-gun fire from the enemy's lines. This very gallant pilot was again wounded by a bomb whilst engaged in this act of rescue, but he persevered until he had placed Lt. Hammond in comparative safety, before falling himself from exhaustion and loss of blood.

*(London Gazette, 1 May 1918)*



# WILLIAM MERRIFIELD



NAME  
MERRIFIELD, William

RANK  
Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH  
9 October 1890

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Brentwood, England

ENLISTMENT DATE  
September 1914

UNIT  
4th (Central Ontario)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH  
8 August 1943

PLACE OF DEATH  
Toronto, Ontario

**W**illiam Merrifield was born in Brentwood, England, on 9 October 1890 and later came to Canada. During the First World War, he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served with the 4th Infantry Battalion. Merrifield received the Military Medal for his conduct near Passchendaele, Belgium, on 6 and 7 November 1917.

On 1 October 1918 near Abancourt, France, intense fire from two German machine gun emplacements blocked the advance of Sergeant Merrifield and his men. Merrifield resolved to attack both positions alone. Running from shell hole to shell hole, he killed the crew of the first machine gun and, although wounded, continued to the second emplacement, where he used a hand grenade to kill all of the enemy defenders.

Merrifield refused to be evacuated and went on leading his platoon until he was wounded again, this time severely. For showing “the highest qualities of valour and leadership” in this action, Sergeant Merrifield was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Merrifield died in Toronto, Ontario, on 8 August 1943.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

6 JANURY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the attack near Abancourt on the 1st October, 1918. When his men were held up by an intense fire from two machine-gun emplacements, he attacked them both single-handed. Dashing from shell-hole to shell-hole he killed the occupants of the first post, and, although wounded, continued to attack the second post, and

with a bomb killed the occupants. He refused to be evacuated, and led his platoon until again severely wounded.

Sjt. Merrifield has served with exceptional distinction on many former occasions, and throughout the action of the 1st October showed the highest qualities of valour and leadership.

*(London Gazette, no. 31108, 6 January 1919)*

MACHINE GUN SECTION, 2ND BATTALION OF THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, AT SCOTTISH LINES NEAR POPERINGHE, NOT FAR FROM YPRES, AFTER FIGHTING AT SANCTUARY WOOD AND MAPLE COPSE, 16 JULY 1916.





# WILLIAM HENRY METCALF



NAME

METCALF, William Henry

RANK

Lance Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

29 January 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH

Waite Township, Maine

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

16th (Canadian Scottish) Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

8 August 1968

PLACE OF DEATH

Lewiston, Maine



William Henry Metcalf was born in Waite Township, Maine, on 29 January 1885. When the First World War began, he immediately came to Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, eventually serving in the 16th Infantry Battalion. Metcalf received the Military Medal in 1916 for his part in the fighting during the Battle of the Somme.

Lance Corporal Metcalf earned the Victoria Cross on 2 September 1918 near Cagnicourt, France, during the Second Battle of Arras. On that day, during an attack on a German trench, the right flank of his battalion was held up by heavy resistance. Having assessed the situation, Metcalf hurried forward under intense machine gun fire to contact a tank passing to his left. Using a signal flag, he walked in front of the tank and directed it along the length of the enemy trench. The tank fired down into the trench, eliminating the machine gun positions and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy defenders. Though he was wounded in this action, Lance Corporal Metcalf continued to advance until he was ordered out of the firing line to have his wound treated.

Metcalf died in Lewiston, Maine, on 8 August 1968.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

15 NOVEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty in attack, when, the right flank of the battalion being held up, he realised the situation and rushed forward under intense machine-gun fire to a passing Tank on the left. With his signal flag he walked in front of the Tank, directing it along the trench in a perfect hail of bullets and bombs. The machine-gun

strong points were overcome, very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a very critical situation was relieved.

Later, although wounded, he continued to advance until ordered to get into a shell hole and have his wounds dressed.

His valour throughout was of the highest standard.

*(London Gazette, no. 31012, 15 November 1918)*

LT.-COL. C.W. PECK, V.C., D.S.O., AND L.-CPL. W.H. METCALF, V.C. (16TH BATTALION).





# WILLIAM JOHNSTONE MILNE



**W**illiam Johnstone Milne was born in Cambusnethan, Scotland, on 21 December 1892. He came to Canada in 1910, settling in Saskatchewan. During the First World War, he served with the 16th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On 9 April 1917, the 16th Infantry Battalion took part in the successful attack by the Canadian Corps on Vimy Ridge, the strongest German defensive position in northwestern France. Early that day, the advance of Private Milne's company was checked by machine gun fire. Crawling forward, he put the crews of two machine guns out of action and captured their guns. Milne was killed a short time later, and his body was never recovered.

For his conduct in this action, Private Milne was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

NAME

MILNE, William Johnstone

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

21 December 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire, Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1915

UNIT

16th (Canadian Scottish)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

9 April 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Thélus, France

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

8 JUNE, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack.

On approaching the first objective, Pte. Milne observed an enemy machine gun firing on our advancing troops. Crawling on hands and knees, he succeeded in reaching the gun, killing the crew with bombs, and capturing the gun.

On the line re-forming, he again located a machine gun in the support line, and

stalking the second gun as he had done the first, he succeeded in putting the crew out of action and capturing the gun.

His wonderful bravery and resource on these two occasions undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.

Pte. Milne was killed shortly after capturing the second gun.

*(London Gazette, no. 30122, 8 June 1917)*



# HARRY GARNET BEDFORD MINER



NAME

MINER, Harry Garnet Bedford

RANK

Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

24 June 1891

PLACE OF BIRTH

Cedar Springs, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1915

UNIT

58th (Central Ontario)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

8 August 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Demuin, France

Harry Garnet Bedford Miner was born in Cedar Springs, Ontario, on 24 June 1891. He farmed near Kippen, Ontario. In December 1915, he enlisted in the 142nd Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and was transferred to the 58th Infantry Battalion the following year. Miner received the Croix de Guerre from the French government in recognition of the part he played in operations near Lens in 1917.

Corporal Miner was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for his conduct on 8 August 1918, the first day of the massive Allied offensive around Amiens, France. Near Demuin, Miner charged a German machine gun position alone and, after killing the crew, turned the captured weapon on the retreating enemy. Later in the day, with the help of two comrades, he attacked another machine gun emplacement and put it out of action. Again alone, Miner assaulted a German bombing post, bayoneting two of the enemy soldiers and causing the other occupants to flee. It was during this last action that Corporal Miner received severe grenade wounds that proved to be fatal.

# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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26 OCTOBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack, when despite severe wounds he refused to withdraw. He rushed an enemy machine-gun post single-handed, killed the entire crew and turned the gun on the enemy.

Later, with two others, he attacked another enemy machine-gun post, and

succeeded in putting the gun out of action.

Cpl. Miner then rushed single-handed an enemy bombing post, bayoneting two of the garrison and putting the remainder to flight. He was mortally wounded in the performance of this gallant deed.

*(London Gazette, no. 30975, 26 October 1918)*



# COULSON NORMAN MITCHELL



NAME

MITCHELL, Coulson Norman

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

11 December 1889

PLACE OF BIRTH

Winnipeg, Manitoba

ENLISTMENT DATE

January 1915

UNIT

4th Battalion, Canadian Engineers, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

17 November 1978

PLACE OF DEATH

Montreal, Quebec

Coulson Norman Mitchell was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on 11 December 1889. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1912 with a degree in engineering. After the First World War began, he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force as an engineer officer and served with the 1st Tunnelling Company, Canadian Engineers. He received the Military Cross at Ypres in 1916.

Captain Mitchell earned the Victoria Cross on the night of 8–9 October 1918 while leading a party of sappers on a reconnaissance mission near Cambrai, France. Their task was to venture beyond the Canadian front line to examine bridges over which the Canadian 5th Infantry Brigade proposed to advance and to prevent their demolition. After finding one bridge destroyed, Mitchell moved on to the next, which spanned the Canal de l'Escaut. Running across the bridge in total darkness, he found that it had indeed been prepared for demolition. With the help of a non-commissioned officer, he cut the detonation wires and began to remove the explosive charges. When the Germans realized what was happening, they charged toward the bridge but were held off by Mitchell's sappers until reinforcements arrived. Saving the bridge over the Canal de l'Escaut contributed significantly to the later success of the 5th Infantry Brigade's offensive operations.

Mitchell died in Montreal, Quebec, on 17 November 1978.



CANADIAN ENGINEERS BRIDGING CANAL DE  
L'ESCAUT ON ARRAS-CAMBRAI ROAD. NOVEMBER  
1918.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

31 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the night of 8th-9th October, 1918, at the Canal de L'Escaut, north-east of Cambrai.

He led a small party ahead of the first wave of infantry in order to examine the various bridges on the line of approach and, if possible, to prevent their demolition.

On reaching the canal he found the bridge already blown up. Under a heavy barrage he crossed to the next bridge, where he cut a number of 'lead' wires. Then in total darkness, and unaware of the position or strength of the enemy at the bridgehead, he dashed across the main bridge over the canal. This bridge was found to be heavily

charged for demolition, and whilst Capt. Mitchell, assisted by his N.C.O., was cutting the wires, the enemy attempted to rush the bridge in order to blow the charges, whereupon he at once dashed to the assistance of his sentry, who had been wounded, killed three of the enemy, captured 12, and maintained the bridgehead until reinforced.

Then under heavy fire he continued his task of cutting wires and removing charges, which he well knew might at any moment have been fired by the enemy.

It was entirely due to his valour and decisive action that this important bridge across the canal was saved from destruction.

*(London Gazette, no. 31155, 31 January 1919)*





# GEORGE HARRY MULLIN



NAME

MULLIN, George Harry

RANK

Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

15 August 1891

PLACE OF BIRTH

Portland, Oregon

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1914

UNIT

Princess Patricia's Canadian  
Light Infantry

DATE OF DEATH

5 April 1963

PLACE OF DEATH

Regina, Saskatchewan

**G**eorge Harry Mullin was born in Portland, Oregon, on 15 August 1891. When he was two, his family moved to Canada, settling in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. During the First World War, Mullin served in the scout and sniper section of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), Canadian Expeditionary Force. For his conduct on the occasion of the successful attack by the Canadian Corps on Vimy Ridge in April 1917, he received the Military Medal.

On 30 October 1917 near Passchendaele, Belgium, a company of the PPCLI was attempting to eliminate a German "pillbox" fortification that was blocking its advance and causing heavy casualties. While one group led by Lieutenant Hugh McKenzie (page 114) made a frontal attack on the pillbox and drew its fire, Sergeant Mullin approached from the flank and crawled onto the top of the concrete structure, disposing of an enemy sniper's position on the way. From this vantage point, Mullin shot two German machine gunners with his revolver before compelling the other ten occupants of the pillbox to surrender. For the courage he demonstrated in this action, Sergeant Mullin was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Mullin died in Regina, Saskatchewan, on 5 April 1963.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when single-handed he captured a commanding 'Pill-box' which had withstood the heavy bombardment and was causing heavy casualties to our forces and holding up the attack. He rushed a sniper's post in front, destroyed the garrison with bombs, and, crawling on top of the 'Pill-box,' he shot the two machine-gunners with his revolver. Sjt. Mullin then rushed to another

entrance and compelled the garrison of ten to surrender.

His gallantry and fearlessness were witnessed by many, and, although rapid fire was directed upon him, and his clothes riddled by bullets, he never faltered in his purpose and he not only helped to save the situation, but also indirectly saved many lives.

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*



BOTTOM: SGT. GEORGE MULLIN (RIGHT) WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WEARING THE RIBBON FOR THE VICTORIA CROSS AND ONE WOUND STRIPE ON HIS SLEEVE. ON 30 OCTOBER 1917 AT PASSCHENDAELE, BELGIUM, HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY CAPTURED A GERMAN PILLBOX THAT WAS HOLDING UP THE ADVANCE. HE WAS RECOGNIZED WITH THE AWARD OF THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR THIS DEED. FOR HIS EARLIER ACTIONS DURING THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE HE HAD BEEN AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL. HE IS SHOWN SHAKING THE HAND OF AN UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER.





# CLAUDE JOSEPH PATRICK NUNNEY



NAME

NUNNEY, Claude Joseph Patrick

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

24 December 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Dublin, Ireland

ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1915

UNIT

38th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

18 September 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Vis-en-Artois, France

Claude Joseph Patrick Nunney was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 24 December 1892, and came to Canada as an orphan. He was initially placed in an orphanage in Ottawa, Ontario, and later with a family in nearby Glengarry County. In March 1915 at Alexandria, Ontario, Nunney enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served with the 38th Infantry Battalion. He received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal.

Private Nunney was also awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for the dash and steadfast example he demonstrated on 1 and 2 September 1918, during the fighting at the Drocourt-Quéant Line in France. On 1 September, near Vis-en-Artois, positions recently captured by the Canadians were subjected to a heavy enemy artillery barrage and a counterattack. On his own initiative, Nunney left his company's main line and made his way forward through the barrage to its outpost line. There he went from position to position, encouraging his comrades. The next day, his exemplary conduct helped inspire his company to carry out its objective. Private Nunney was severely wounded that day and died on 18 September 1918.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 DECEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery during the operations against the Drocourt-Quéant line on the 1st and 2nd September, 1918.

On 1st September, when his battalion was in the vicinity of Vis-en-Artois, preparatory to the advance, the enemy laid down a heavy barrage and counter-attacked. Pte. Nunney, who was at this time at company headquarters, immediately on his own initiative proceeded through the barrage to the company outpost lines, going from

post to post and encouraging the men by his own fearless example. The enemy were repulsed and a critical situation was saved. During the attack on 2nd September his dash continually placed him in advance of his companions, and his fearless example undoubtedly helped greatly to carry the company forward to its objectives.

He displayed throughout the highest degree of valour until severely wounded.

*(London Gazette, no. 31067, 14 December 1918)*

GERMAN FIELD GUN CAPTURED BY CANADIANS NEAR VIS-EN-ARTOIS. SEPTEMBER 1918. THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS A CAPTURED GERMAN SFH 98/09 10.5 CM LIGHT HOWITZER, IN DISRUPTIVE CAMOUFLAGE, SURROUNDED BY SHELLS AND ITS DEAD CREW.



# CHRISTOPHER PATRICK JOHN O'KELLY



NAME

O'KELLY, Christopher Patrick John

RANK

Acting Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

18 November 1895

PLACE OF BIRTH

Winnipeg, Manitoba

ENLISTMENT DATE

October 1915

UNIT

52nd (New Ontario) Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

15 November 1922

PLACE OF DEATH

Lac Seul, Ontario



Christopher Patrick John O'Kelly was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on 18 November 1895. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. While serving with the 52nd Infantry Battalion, O'Kelly received the Military Cross.

On 26 October 1917, Acting Captain O'Kelly led his company of the 52nd Battalion against German positions on Bellevue Spur, a network of defences near Passchendaele, Belgium. Previously, other units had tried to attack this feature but had been unsuccessful, suffering considerable losses. O'Kelly and his men advanced about one kilometre into the enemy positions and captured six "pillbox" fortifications, ten machine guns, and 100 prisoners. They then dug in and held their position against repeated German counterattacks until they were relieved. Later that day, O'Kelly and his company fought off the enemy during another strong counterattack, taking more prisoners in the process. Alert to German activity that night, they captured a raiding party of 11 soldiers. For his exemplary leadership throughout that day, O'Kelly was awarded the Victoria Cross.

On 15 November 1922, O'Kelly drowned during a storm on Lac Seul, near Kenora, Ontario. His body was never found.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery in an action in which he led his company with extraordinary skill and determination.

After the original attack had failed and two companies of his unit had launched a new attack, Capt. O'Kelly advanced his command over 1,000 yards under heavy fire without any artillery barrage, took the enemy positions on the crest of the hill by storm, and then personally organised and led a series of attacks against 'Pill-boxes,' his company alone capturing six of them

with 100 prisoners and 10 machine guns.

Later on in the afternoon, under the leadership of this gallant officer, his company repelled a strong counter-attack, taking more prisoners, and subsequently during the night captured a hostile raiding party consisting of one officer, 10 men and a machine gun.

The whole of these achievements were chiefly due to the magnificent courage, daring and ability of Capt. O'Kelly.

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*

CHRISTOPHER PATRICK JOHN O'KELLY WAS AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP DURING THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE IN OCTOBER 1917, WHEN HE LED HIS UNIT IN THE CAPTURE OF SEVERAL PILLBOXES AND NUMEROUS PRISONERS, AND LATER HELPED REPEL A COUNTERATTACK. HE HAD ALREADY BEEN AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS FOR ACTIONS NEAR VIMY RIDGE IN SEPTEMBER. HE IS PHOTOGRAPHED NEAR THE FRONT LINES WEARING A LEATHER JERKIN OVER A UNIFORM WITH THE RANK CUFFS OF A LIEUTENANT. HE AND TWO SOLDIERS ARE STANDING IN A RUINED SECTION OF TRENCH, WITH A DESTROYED STRUCTURE IN THE BACKGROUND. RIGHT: CAPT. CHRISTOPHER PATRICK JOHN O'KELLY, V.C., M.C.





# MICHAEL JOHN O'LEARY



NAME

O'LEARY, Michael John

RANK

Lance Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

29 September 1888

PLACE OF BIRTH

Macroom, County Cork, Ireland

ENLISTMENT DATE

Autumn 1914

UNIT

1st Battalion, Irish Guards, British Army

DATE OF DEATH

1 August 1961

PLACE OF DEATH

Islington (London), England

**M**

ichael O'Leary was born in Ireland in 1888. As a young man, he served in the British military before emigrating to Canada in 1913 to join the Royal North-West Mounted Police. When the First World War erupted in Europe in August 1914, he returned to Great Britain to rejoin the British Army's Irish Guards. By November 1914, he was serving on the Western Front and would see heavy action in the months that followed.

On 1 February 1915, Lance Corporal O'Leary was part of an attempt to retake some captured trenches near Cuinchy, France. Enemy machine guns were inflicting a heavy toll on the men when O'Leary took it upon himself to eliminate these deadly positions on his own. O'Leary survived the battle, and for his brave actions he was awarded the Victoria Cross to considerable public acclaim. This was not the end of his military career; he would continue to serve in uniform throughout the war. He spent time in the Balkans, where he unfortunately contracted malaria, which would affect his health for the rest of his life.

After being released from the British Army in 1921, O'Leary resumed his work as a police officer in Canada for some time and later returned to Britain. He would serve again in the Second World War, commanding a prisoner of war camp in southern England. He worked as a building contractor after the war. O'Leary died in 1961 and is buried in the Mill Hill Cemetery near London, England.

# AN IRISH HERO!

## 1 IRISHMAN DEFEATS 10 GERMANS.



### SERGEANT MICHAEL O'LEARY, V.C.

### • IRISH GUARDS •

HAVE YOU NO WISH TO EMULATE THE SPLENDID  
BRAVERY OF YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMAN?

## JOIN AN IRISH REGIMENT TO-DAY

## The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

16 FEBRUARY, 1915

When forming one of the storming party which advanced against the enemy's barricades he rushed to the front and himself killed five Germans who were holding the first barricade, after which he attacked a second barricade, about 60 yards further on, which he captured, after killing three

of the enemy and making prisoners of two more. Lance-Corporal O'Leary thus practically captured the enemy's position by himself and prevented the attacking party from being fired upon.

*(London Gazette, 16 February 1915)*



# MICHAEL JAMES O'ROURKE



#### NAME

O'ROURKE, Michael James

#### RANK

Private

#### DATE OF BIRTH

19 March 1878

#### PLACE OF BIRTH

Limerick, County Limerick, Ireland

#### ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1915

#### UNIT

7th (1st British Columbia)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

#### DATE OF DEATH

6 December 1957

#### PLACE OF DEATH

Vancouver, British Columbia

**M**

ichael James O'Rourke was born on 19 March 1878 in Limerick, Ireland. After the First World War began, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a stretcher-bearer and served with the 7th Infantry Battalion. O'Rourke received the Military Medal for his conduct during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

O'Rourke earned the Victoria Cross for his courage and devotion to his comrades over a three-day period, from 15 to 17 August 1917, during the fighting for Hill 70, near Lens, France. Despite severe German shelling and machine gun and rifle fire, he worked unceasingly to bring the wounded to safety, to treat their injuries, and to obtain food and water for them. On several occasions, O'Rourke was knocked down and partially buried by explosions from enemy shells. At least three times, he exposed himself recklessly to enemy fire in order to retrieve wounded men. The first time, he jumped out of his trench in full view of German snipers to bring to safety a soldier who had been blinded. He left his trench on two other occasions in the face of heavy enemy machine gun fire and rescued two other wounded comrades.

O'Rourke died in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 6 December 1957.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

8 NOVEMBER, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during prolonged operations.

For three days and nights Pte. O'Rourke, who is a stretcher-bearer, worked unceasingly in bringing the wounded into safety, dressing them, and getting them food and water.

During the whole of his period the area in which he worked was subjected to very severe shelling and swept by heavy machine gun and rifle fire. On several occasions he was knocked down and partially buried by enemy shells. Seeing a comrade who had been blinded stumbling around ahead of our trench, in full view of the enemy who were sniping him, Pte. O'Rourke jumped out of his trench and brought the man back, being himself heavily sniped at while doing so. Again he went forward

about 50 yards in front of our barrage under very heavy and accurate fire from enemy machine guns and snipers, and brought in a comrade. On a subsequent occasion, when the line of advanced posts was retired to the line to be consolidated, he went forward under very heavy enemy fire of every description and brought back a wounded man who had been left behind.

He showed throughout an absolute disregard for his own safety, going wherever there were wounded to succour, and his magnificent courage and devotion in continuing his rescue work, in spite of exhaustion and the incessant heavy enemy fire of every description, inspired all ranks and undoubtedly saved many lives.

*(London Gazette, no. 30372, 8 November 1917)*

TOP: PVT. MICHAEL J. O'ROURKE (RIGHT), 7TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, WAS AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR HIS SUSTAINED LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS AND COURAGE UNDER FIRE WHILE SERVING AS A STRETCHER-BEARER FROM 15 TO 17 AUGUST 1917 DURING THE FIGHTING FOR HILL 70, NEAR LENS. HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THE MILITARY MEDAL FOR HEROISM DURING THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME, 1916. HE IS WEARING THE RIBBONS FOR BOTH MEDALS, AND SITTING BESIDE A SERGEANT IN THE SAME BATTALION.

BOTTOM: CADET R. HANNA, V.C., PTE. M.J. O'ROURKE, V.C.





# JOHN GEORGE PATTISON



NAME

PATTISON, John George

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

8 September 1875

PLACE OF BIRTH

Woolwich, London

ENLISTMENT DATE

May 1916

UNIT

50th Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

3 June 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Lens, France

**J**ohn George Pattison was born on 8 September 1875 in Woolwich, England, and came to Canada in 1906. In May 1916, at the age of 40, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served in the 50th Infantry Battalion.

Private Pattison earned the Victoria Cross in France on 10 April 1917, the day after Vimy Ridge was successfully attacked and captured by the Canadian Corps. After surviving the very heavy artillery bombardment and the assault of the previous day, several German units were regrouping in order to stop any further advance by the Canadians. As the 50th Battalion moved forward, its progress was checked by an enemy machine gun. Pattison hurried ahead from shell hole to shell hole until he was within 30 metres of the German position. In the face of heavy gunfire, he threw hand grenades into the emplacement, killing and wounding some of the enemy. Before the five remaining defenders could recover, Private Pattison charged the position and overcame them.

Just over seven weeks later, on 3 June 1917, Private Pattison was killed in an attack on a German-held generating station near Lens, France. Pattison Bridge in Calgary, Alberta, and a mountain peak in Jasper National Park (also in Alberta) are named in his honour.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

2 AUGUST, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery in attack.

When the advance of our troops was held up by an enemy machine gun, which was inflicting severe casualties, Pte. Pattison, with utter disregard of his own safety, sprang forward and, jumping from shell-hole to shell-hole, reached cover within 30 yards of the enemy gun.

From this point, in face of heavy fire,

he hurled bombs, killing and wounding some of the crew, then rushed forward, overcoming and bayonetting the surviving five gunners.

His valour and initiative undoubtedly saved the situation and made possible the further advance to the objective.

*(London Gazette, no. 30215, 2 August 1917)*

PTE. J.G. PATTISON, V.C., AND BUGLER.



# GEORGE RANDOLPH PEARKES



NAME

PEARKES, George Randolph

RANK

Major

DATE OF BIRTH

26 February 1888

PLACE OF BIRTH

Watford, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1915

UNIT

5th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

30 May 1984

PLACE OF DEATH

Victoria, British Columbia

George Randolph Pearkes was born in Watford, England, on 26 February 1888. He came to Canada in 1906 and joined the Royal North-West Mounted Police. In 1915, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, later rising to command the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Major Pearkes was awarded the Victoria Cross in recognition of his courage and his skilful handling of his troops at Passchendaele, Belgium, on 30 and 31 October 1917. At a particular stage, the progress of Pearkes's troops was threatened by a German strongpoint. Quickly evaluating the situation, he captured the position, which enabled him to continue to advance toward his objective and then to hold it with a small number of men, despite a wound in his thigh.

Although he was wounded five times over the course of the First World War, Pearkes remained a career soldier and went on to hold several major command appointments during the Second World War. After retiring from the army, he entered federal politics as a Progressive Conservative and was elected four times to the House of Commons (1945, 1953, 1957, and 1958). Pearkes served as Minister of National Defence in Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's cabinet from 1957 until 1960. In 1961, he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, a position he held until 1968.

Pearkes died on 30 May 1984 in Victoria, British Columbia. The main building housing the National Defence headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario, is named the Major-General George R. Pearkes Building in his honour.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and skilful handling of the troops under his command during the capture and consolidation of considerably more than the objectives allotted to him, in an attack.

Just prior to the advance Maj. Pearkes was wounded in the left thigh. Regardless of his wound, he continued to lead his men with the utmost gallantry, despite many obstacles.

At a particular stage of the attack his further advance was threatened by a strong point which was an objective of the battalion on his left, but which they had not succeeded in capturing. Quickly appreciating the situation, he captured and held this point, thus enabling his further advance to be successfully pushed forward.

It was entirely due to his determination and fearless personality that he was able to maintain his objective with the small number of men at his command against repeated enemy counter-attacks, both his flanks being unprotected for a considerable depth meanwhile.

His appreciation of the situation throughout and the reports rendered by him were invaluable to his Commanding Officer in making dispositions of troops to hold the position captured.

He showed throughout a supreme contempt of danger and wonderful powers of control and leading.

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*





# CYRUS WESLEY PECK



NAME

PECK, Cyrus Wesley

RANK

Lieutenant-Colonel

DATE OF BIRTH

26 April 1871

PLACE OF BIRTH

Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick

ENLISTMENT DATE

November 1914

UNIT

16th (Canadian Scottish)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

27 September 1956

PLACE OF DEATH

Sidney, British Columbia

Cyrus Wesley Peck was born on 26 April 1871 in Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick. When the First World War began, he enlisted in the 30th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and received a commission as a major. In November 1916, Peck was promoted to command the 16th Infantry Battalion. As well as winning the Victoria Cross, Lieutenant-Colonel Peck received the Distinguished Service Order and was mentioned in dispatches five times. He was wounded twice.

In 1917, while he was overseas, Peck was elected to the House of Commons as the Member of Parliament for Skeena, British Columbia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peck was awarded the Victoria Cross for his courageous leadership on 2 September 1918, during the fighting for the Drocourt-Quéant Line, near Cagnicourt, France. Seeing that the advance of his battalion had been halted by heavy German fire, Peck conducted a reconnaissance of the enemy position. He then reorganized his battalion to deal with the situation, leading it under intense fire. Ultimately, his actions paved the way for another battalion to push forward.

Peck died in Sidney, British Columbia, on 27 September 1956.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

15 NOVEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leading when in attack under intense fire.

His command quickly captured the first objective, but progress to the further objective was held up by enemy machine-gun fire on his right flank.

The situation being critical in the extreme, Colonel Peck pushed forward and made a personal reconnaissance under heavy machine-gun and sniping fire, across a stretch of ground which was heavily swept by fire.

Having reconnoitred the position he returned, reorganised his battalion, and, acting upon the knowledge personally gained, pushed them forward and arranged

to protect his flanks. He then went out under the most intense artillery and machine-gun fire, intercepted the Tanks, gave them the necessary directions, pointing out where they were to make for, and thus paved the way for a Canadian Infantry battalion to push forward. To this battalion he subsequently gave requisite support.

His magnificent display of courage and fine qualities of leadership enabled the advance to be continued, although always under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, and contributed largely to the success of the brigade attack.

*(London Gazette, no. 31012, 15 November 1918)*



TOP: BATTLE OF THE CANAL DU NORD. MEN OF THE 16TH INFANTRY BATTALION (CANADIAN SCOTTISH) MOVING UP TO THE FRONT LINE NEAR INCHY DURING THE CANADIAN CORPS' CROSSING OF THE CANAL DU NORD.



# WALTER LEIGH RAYFIELD



NAME

RAYFIELD, Walter Leigh

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

7 October 1881

PLACE OF BIRTH

Richmond-on-Thames, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

July 1917

UNIT

7th (1st British Columbia)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

19 February 1949

PLACE OF DEATH

Toronto, Ontario

**W**alter Leigh Rayfield was born in Richmond-on-Thames, England, on 7 October 1881 and later came to Canada. When the First World War began, he was living in Vancouver, British Columbia. Rayfield enlisted in the 7th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Rayfield was awarded the Victoria Cross for three acts of bravery while he was serving near Cagnicourt, France, between 2 and 4 September 1918. On the first occasion, Rayfield rushed ahead of his company to attack a German trench, bayoneting two of the enemy soldiers and taking ten others captive. Later, he located and engaged a German sniper, finally charging the marksman's section of trench so aggressively that 30 more soldiers surrendered. Rayfield's third courageous act was to leave cover and carry a badly wounded comrade to safety through heavy machine gun fire. As well as receiving the Victoria Cross, he was made a member of the Royal Order of the Crown of Belgium by the Belgian government.

Rayfield died in Toronto, Ontario, on 19 February 1949.

Walter Leigh Rayfield is buried in Prospect Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario (Soldier's Plot, Section 7, Grave 4196).

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 DECEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and initiative during the operations east of Arras from 2nd to 4th September, 1918.

Ahead of his company, he rushed a trench occupied by a large party of the enemy, personally bayoneting two and taking ten prisoners.

Later, he located and engaged with great skill, under constant rifle fire, an enemy sniper who was causing many casualties. He then rushed the section of trench from which the sniper had been operating,

and so demoralised the enemy by his coolness and daring that thirty others surrendered to him.

Again, regardless of his personal safety, he left cover under heavy machine-gun fire and carried in a badly wounded comrade.

His indomitable courage, cool foresight, and daring reconnaissance were invaluable to his Company Commander and an inspiration to all ranks.

*(London Gazette, no. 31067, 14 December 1918)*



# JAMES CLELAND RICHARDSON



NAME

RICHARDSON, James Cleland

RANK

Piper

DATE OF BIRTH

September 1914

PLACE OF BIRTH

Bellshill, Lanarkshire, Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

1914

UNIT

16th (Canadian Scottish)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

9 October 1916

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Courcellette, France

**J**ames Cleland Richardson was born in Bellshill, Scotland, on 25 November 1895 and later came to Canada with his parents. When the First World War began, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served as a piper in the 16th Infantry Battalion.

On 8 October 1916, the 16th Battalion was attacking a German position called Regina Trench during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme in France. When Piper Richardson's company was held up in front of the enemy trench by uncut barbed wire and intense gunfire, he strode back and forth, calmly playing his bagpipes. Inspired by his example, his company assaulted the barbed wire, made their way through it, and captured the German position.

Richardson survived the attack and was later detailed to escort a wounded comrade and some prisoners of war to the rear. Along the way, he realized that he had left his bagpipes behind and returned to retrieve them. He was never seen alive again. For his exemplary courage under fire in this action, Piper Richardson was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

22 OCTOBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, prior to attack, he obtained permission from his Commanding Officer to play his company 'over the top.'

As the company approached the objective, it was held up by very strong wire and came under intense fire, which caused heavy casualties and demoralised the formation for the moment. Realising the situation, Piper Richardson strode up and down outside the wire, playing his pipes with the greatest coolness. The effect was instantaneous. Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such

fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the position captured.

Later, after participating in bombing operations, he was detailed to take back a wounded comrade and prisoners.

After proceeding about 200 yards Piper Richardson remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly urged not to do so, he insisted on returning to recover his pipes. He has never been seen since, and death has been presumed accordingly owing to lapse of time.

*(London Gazette, no. 30967, 22 October 1918)*



BOTTOM: GERMAN PRISONERS CAPTURED BY CANADIANS IN THE STORMING OF REGINA TRENCH. OCTOBER 1916.



# THOMAS RICKETTS



NAME

RICKETTS, Thomas

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

15 April 1901

PLACE OF BIRTH

Middle Arm, White Bay, Newfoundland

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1916

UNIT

1st Battalion,  
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

10 February 1967

PLACE OF DEATH

St. John's, Newfoundland

**T**homas Ricketts was born in Middle Arm, Newfoundland, on 15 April 1901. When in September 1916 he volunteered for service with the 1st Battalion, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, he was only 15 years old. However, he gave his age as 18 and was accepted.

In fact, Private Ricketts had still not celebrated his 18th birthday when he earned the Victoria Cross on 14 October 1918 near Ledeghem (now Ledegem), Belgium. The advance of the 1st Battalion was being delayed by a German battery firing at close range, resulting in severe casualties for the Newfoundlanders. Ricketts, who was serving in a Lewis machine gun detachment, offered to go with his section commander and a Lewis gun to outflank the battery. The two moved toward the battery's flank in short rushes, but their ammunition was exhausted while they were still about 300 metres from the German position. Under heavy machine gun fire, Ricketts doubled back 100 metres to get more ammunition and returned with it to his Lewis gun. His accurate fire from the flank drove many of the enemy soldiers to abandon the heavy weapons in their positions and seek the protection of a nearby farm. Private Ricketts's platoon then advanced and captured the four field guns in the battery, the four machine guns supporting the position, and eight prisoners.

Ricketts died in St John's, Newfoundland, on 10 February 1967.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

6 JANUARY, 1919

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 14th October, 1918, during the advance from Ledeghem, when the attack was temporarily held up by heavy hostile fire and the platoon to which he belonged suffered severe casualties from the fire of a battery at point-blank range.

Pte. Ricketts at once volunteered to go forward with his section commander and a Lewis gun to attempt to outflank the battery. Advancing by short rushes under heavy fire from enemy machine guns with the hostile battery, their ammunition was exhausted when still 300 yards from the battery. The enemy, seeing an opportunity to get their field guns away, began to bring up their gun teams. Pte. Ricketts, at once realising the situation, doubled back 100

yards under the heaviest machine-gun fire, procured further ammunition, and dashed back again to the Lewis gun, and by very accurate fire drove the enemy and the gun teams into a farm.

His platoon then advanced without casualties, and captured the four field guns, four machine guns, and eight prisoners.

A fifth field gun was subsequently intercepted by fire and captured.

By his presence of mind in anticipating the enemy intention and his utter disregard of personal safety, Pte. Ricketts secured the further supply of ammunition which directly resulted in these important captures and undoubtedly saved many lives.

*(London Gazette, no. 31108, 6 January 1919)*



# JAMES PETER ROBERTSON



NAME

ROBERTSON, James Peter

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

26 October 1883

PLACE OF BIRTH

Albion Mines (Stellarton), Nova Scotia

ENLISTMENT DATE

June 1915

UNIT

27th (City of Winnipeg)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

6 November 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Passchendaele, Belgium

James Peter Robertson was born in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, on 26 October 1883. When he was a child, the family moved first to Springhill, Nova Scotia, and later to Medicine Hat, Alberta. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915.

Robertson earned the Victoria Cross during the final assault on Passchendaele, Belgium, on 6 November 1917 with the 27th Infantry Battalion. His platoon was held up by barbed wire and a German machine gun. He was able to dash around to an opening on the flank of the enemy position and rush the gun. After a desperate struggle, Robertson killed four of the crew and then turned the enemy gun on the remainder. This enabled his platoon to continue toward its objective, with Robertson still firing the captured gun at the enemy soldiers as they retreated. Later, when two of his own snipers were wounded in front of their trench, he went out under severe fire and carried in one of them, but as he was returning with the second man, he was killed by a bursting shell.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 JANUARY, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and outstanding devotion to duty in attack. When his platoon was held up by uncut wire and a machine gun causing many casualties, Pte. Robertson dashed to an opening on the flank, rushed the machine gun and, after a desperate struggle with the crew, killed four and then turned the gun on the remainder, who, overcome by the fierceness of his onslaught, were running towards their own lines. His gallant work enabled the platoon to advance. He inflicted many more casualties among the enemy, and then carrying the captured machine gun, he led his platoon to the final objective. He there selected an excellent position and got the gun

into action, firing on the retreating enemy who by this time were quite demoralised by the fire brought to bear on them.

During the consolidation Pte. Robertson's most determined use of the machine gun kept down the fire of the enemy snipers; his courage and his coolness cheered his comrades and inspired them to the finest efforts.

Later, when two of our snipers were badly wounded in front of our trench, he went out and carried one of them in under very severe fire.

He was killed just as he returned with the second man.

*(London Gazette, no. 30471, 11 January 1918)*



# CHARLES SMITH RUTHERFORD



NAME

RUTHERFORD, Charles Smith

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

9 January 1892

PLACE OF BIRTH

Colborne, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1916

UNIT

5th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

11 June 1989

PLACE OF DEATH

Ottawa, Ontario



Charles Smith Rutherford was born in Colborne, Ontario, on 9 January 1892. He earned the Military Medal at Passchendaele, Belgium, in 1917 and the Military Cross at Arvillers, France, in 1918.

Rutherford earned the Victoria Cross in Monchy-le-Preux, France, where he was serving with the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment. While leading an assault party on 26 August 1918, he found himself a considerable distance ahead of his men and spotted an enemy group standing before a “pillbox” in front of him. Lieutenant Rutherford beckoned, revolver in hand, for them to come to him, and the enemy soldiers in turn waved for him to come to them. This he did, and by masterly bluff he informed them that they were surrounded. Incredibly, the entire party of 45, including two officers, surrendered to him. Rutherford then persuaded one of the enemy officers to stop the fire of a machine gun nearby. This allowed his own men to advance quickly to his support. Rutherford later captured another pillbox nearby, taking 35 more prisoners as well as a machine gun.

Rutherford died in Ottawa, Ontario, on 11 June 1989.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

15 NOVEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty. When in command of an assaulting party Lt. Rutherford found himself a considerable distance ahead of his men, and at the same moment observed a fully armed strong enemy party outside a 'Pill Box' ahead of him. He beckoned to them with his revolver to come to him, in return they waved to him to come to them. This he boldly did, and informed them that they were prisoners. This fact an enemy officer disputed and invited Lt. Rutherford to enter the 'Pill Box,' an invitation he discreetly declined. By masterly bluff, however, he persuaded the enemy that they were surrounded, and the whole party of 45, including two officers and three machine guns, surrendered to him.

Subsequently he induced the enemy

officer to stop the fire of an enemy machine-gun close by, and Lt. Rutherford took advantage of the opportunity to hasten the advance of his men to his support.

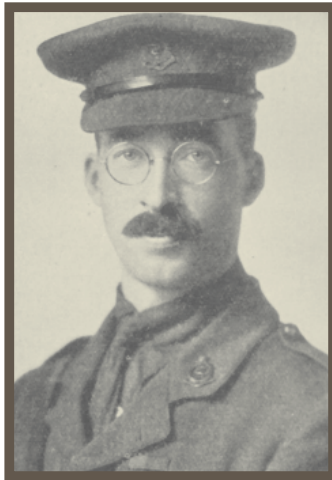
Lt. Rutherford then observed that the right assaulting party was held up by heavy machine-gun fire from another 'Pill Box.' Indicating an objective to the remainder of his party he attacked the 'Pill Box' with a Lewis gun section and captured a further 35 prisoners with machine guns, thus enabling the party to continue their advance.

The bold and gallant action of this officer contributed very materially to the capture of the main objective and was a wonderful inspiration to all ranks in pressing home the attack on a very strong position.

*(London Gazette, no. 31012, 15 November 1918)*



# FRANCIS ALEXANDER CARON SCRIMGER



NAME

SCRIMGER, Francis Alexander Caron

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

10 February 1881

PLACE OF BIRTH

Montreal, Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

Canadian Army Medical Corps  
14th Infantry Battalion (Royal Montreal  
Regiment), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

13 February 1937

PLACE OF DEATH

Montreal, Quebec

**F**rancis Alexander Caron Scrimger was born in Montreal, Quebec, on 10 February 1881. He studied medicine at McGill University, graduating in 1905. At the outbreak of the war, he was a surgeon and lecturer. He joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps and served as the medical officer of the 14th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Captain Scrimger earned the Victoria Cross in Ypres, Belgium, on 25 April 1915 for bravery in directing the evacuation of the wounded from his advanced dressing station under heavy enemy shelling. He carried a severely wounded officer to safety and remained with him under fire until additional help could be obtained.

Dr Scrimger later worked as an assistant surgeon, and then surgeon-in-chief, at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. He died in Montreal on 13 February 1937.



GERMAN O.P. AT APPROXIMATE POSITION OF 8TH  
BATTALION. H.Q. ON 22 APRIL 1915 (SECOND BATTLE  
OF YPRES).

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

23 JUNE, 1915

On the afternoon of 25th April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of Ypres, when in charge of an advanced dressing station in some farm buildings, which were being heavily shelled by the enemy, he directed under heavy fire the removal of the wounded, and he himself carried a severely wounded Officer out of a stable in search of a place of greater safety. When he was unable

alone to carry this Officer further, he remained with him under fire till help could be obtained.

During the very heavy fighting between 22nd and 25th April, Captain Scrimger displayed continuously day and night the greatest devotion to his duty among the wounded at the front.

*(London Gazette, no. 29202, 23 June 1915)*



# ROBERT SHANKLAND



NAME

SHANKLAND, Robert

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

10 October 1887

PLACE OF BIRTH

Ayr, Ayreshire, Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1914

UNIT

43rd Infantry Battalion  
(Cameron Highlanders of Canada), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

20 January 1968

PLACE OF DEATH

Vancouver, British Columbia

**R**obert Shankland was born in Ayr, Scotland, on 10 October 1887. He emigrated to Canada in 1911 and settled in Winnipeg, where he lived on Pine Street (later renamed Valour Road in honour of Shankland and two other Victoria Cross recipients; see pages 52 and 78). He enlisted as a private, rose to regimental sergeant major and earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal at Sanctuary Wood in June 1916. He was commissioned in the fall, on the Somme.

Lieutenant Shankland earned the Victoria Cross in Passchendaele, Belgium, with the 43rd Infantry Battalion. On 26 October 1917, the battalion was fighting for the Bellevue Spur, one of the main lines of defence before Passchendaele. Having gained a position, Shankland rallied the remnants of his own platoon and men from other companies, disposed them to command the ground in front, and proceeded to lead them in inflicting heavy casualties upon the retreating enemy. Later, he diverted a counterattack, which enabled supporting troops to come up unmolested.

Shankland died in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 20 January 1968.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

18 DECEMBER, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and resource in action under critical and adverse conditions.

Having gained a position he rallied the remnant of his own platoon and men of other companies, disposed them to command the ground in front, and inflicted heavy casualties upon the retreating enemy. Later, he dispersed a counter-attack, thus enabling supporting troops to come up unmolested.

He then personally communicated to Battalion Headquarters an accurate and valuable report as to the position on the Brigade frontage, and after doing so rejoined his command and carried on until relieved.

His courage and splendid example inspired all ranks and coupled with his great gallantry and skill undoubtedly saved a very critical situation.

*(London Gazette, no. 30433, 18 December 1917)*

WOUNDED CANADIANS REST NEAR A HEINE PILLBOX.  
BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE. NOVEMBER 1917.



# ELLIS WELLWOOD SIFTON



**E**llis Wellwood Sifton was born in Wallacetown, Ontario, on 12 October 1891. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in October 1914 and served first as a battalion driver. Sometime before the Vimy battle, he asked to leave this work to “take a chance with the boys in the front line.”

On the day of his Victoria Cross action (9 April 1917) with the 18th Infantry Battalion, Lance Sergeant Sifton’s company was suffering severely at the hands of enemy machine gun nests. Sifton dashed through a gap in the wire, ran across open ground, and charged a machine gun emplacement with hand grenades, attacking the gunners with his bayonet. Having cleared the nest, and with his comrades following behind, Sifton subsequently helped hold off a counterattack with bayonet and rifle butt. Just as he was about to be relieved, however, he was fatally shot by a wounded German.

NAME

SIFTON, Ellis Wellwood

RANK

Lance Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

12 October 1891

PLACE OF BIRTH

Wallacetown, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

October 1914

UNIT

18th (Western Ontario)  
Infantry Battalion, CEF

DATE OF DEATH

9 April 1917

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Neuville-Saint-Vaast, France

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

8 JUNE, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During the attack in enemy trenches Sjt. Sifton's company was held up by machine gun fire which inflicted many casualties. Having located the gun he charged it single-handed, killing all the crew.

A small enemy party advanced down the trench, but he succeeded in keeping

these off till our men had gained the position.

He was killed just as he returned with the second man. In carrying out this gallant act he was killed, but his conspicuous valour undoubtedly saved many lives and contributed largely to the success of the operation.

*(London Gazette, no. 30122, 8 June 1917)*



TWO COMRADES OF THE LATE L/SERGT. E.W. SIFTON, V.C., 18TH BATTALION, VISIT HIS GRAVE. FEBRUARY 1918.



# JOHN ALEXANDER SINTON



NAME

SINTON, John Alexander

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

2 December 1884

PLACE OF BIRTH

Victoria, British Columbia

ENLISTMENT DATE

1914

UNIT

Indian Medical Service, British Indian Army

DATE OF DEATH

25 March 1956

PLACE OF DEATH

Cookstown, County Tyrone, Ireland

John Sinton was born in Victoria, British Columbia, on 2 December 1884 to parents who had immigrated from Ireland. His family returned to Ulster in 1890 when Sinton was still a young boy. Sinton went on to study medicine at Queen's University, Belfast, graduating with honours in 1908. He earned additional degrees at the University of Cambridge and the University of Liverpool. In 1911, he joined the Indian Medical Service and was a captain in the Indian Army during the First World War.

On 21 January 1916, Sinton was attending to the wounded during a fierce battle near the Orah Ruins in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq). Despite being injured himself, he continued his efforts as the battle raged around him. Sinton was mentioned in dispatches four times during the same campaign and was also awarded the Russian Order of St George.

After the war, Sinton transferred to the civil branch of the Indian Medical Service and went on to a distinguished career as an expert in tropical diseases. He served again in the Second World War, retiring with the honorary rank of brigadier in 1943. He spent the rest of the war years continuing his work on combatting malaria in various tropical areas.

Dr Sinton died at his home in Cookstown, Northern Ireland, on 25 March 1956 and was buried with full military honours in the nearby Claggan Presbyterian Churchyard.

# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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21 JUNE, 1916

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under

very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.

*(London Gazette, 21 June 1916)*



# ROBERT SPALL



NAME

SPALL, Robert

RANK

Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

5 March 1890

PLACE OF BIRTH

Ealing, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

July 1915

UNIT

Princess Patricia's Canadian  
Light Infantry

DATE OF DEATH

13 August 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Parvillers, France

**R**obert Spall was born in Ealing, England, on 5 March 1890. When he was two, his parents moved the family to Canada, settling in Winnipeg. In August 1915, he joined the 90th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and later was posted to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, in which he became a sergeant.

Spall earned the Victoria Cross in Parvillers, France. During an enemy counterattack on 12 and 13 August 1918, his platoon became isolated. Taking a Lewis gun, he inflicted numerous casualties and then descended into the trench, directing his men into a sap 75 metres from the enemy. He again mounted the parapet of the trench and resumed his fire in order to further hold up the enemy. It was at this point that he was killed.

Spall sacrificed his life in order to extricate his platoon from a difficult situation, and his bravery allowed his men to be saved.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

26 OCTOBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice when, during an enemy counter-attack, his platoon was isolated. Thereupon Sjt. Spall took a Lewis gun and, standing on the parapet, fired upon the advancing enemy, inflicting very severe casualties. He then came down the trench directing the men into a sap seventy-five yards from the enemy. Picking up another Lewis gun, this

gallant N.C.O. again climbed the parapet, and by his fire held up the enemy. It was while holding up the enemy at this point that he was killed.

Sjt. Spall deliberately gave his life in order to extricate his platoon from a most difficult situation, and it was owing to his bravery that the platoon was saved.

*(London Gazette, no. 30975, 26 October 1918)*



# HARCUS STRACHAN



NAME

STRACHAN, Marcus

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

7 November 1887

PLACE OF BIRTH

Borrowstounness (called Bo'ness),  
Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

July 1915

UNIT

Fort Garry Horse

DATE OF DEATH

1 May 1982

PLACE OF DEATH

Vancouver, British Columbia

Marcus Strachan was born in Borrowstounness, Scotland, on 7 November 1887. He emigrated to Canada in 1908 and enlisted in the Fort Garry Horse in 1915. He was commissioned the following year. In May 1917, Strachan was awarded the Military Cross after a raid near St-Quentin. Six months later, on 20 November, he earned the Victoria Cross in Masnières, France, in a similar action.

When his squadron leader was killed, Lieutenant Strachan took command and directed the unit through the enemy line of machine gun posts. With the surviving men, he led the charge on the enemy battery, killing seven of the gunners with his sword. With the German battery silenced, Strachan went on to cut telephone communications three kilometres behind the enemy line. He then rallied his men and fought his way back at night to his own lines, safely bringing in all the unwounded as well as 15 prisoners.

Strachan died in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 1 May 1982.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

18 DECEMBER, 1917

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during operations.

He took command of the squadron of his regiment when the squadron leader, approaching the enemy front line at a gallop, was killed. Lt. Strachan led the squadron through the enemy line of machine-gun posts, and then, with the surviving men, led the charge on the enemy battery, killing seven of the gunners with his sword. All the gunners having been killed and the battery silenced, he rallied his men and fought

his way back at night through the enemy's line, bringing all unwounded men safely in, together with 15 prisoners.

The operation – which resulted in the silencing of an enemy battery, the killing of the whole battery personnel and many infantry, and the cutting of three main lines of telephone communication two miles in rear of the enemy's front line – was only rendered possible by the outstanding gallantry and fearless leading of this officer.

*(London Gazette, no. 30433, 18 December 1917)*



TOP: BOMBING PLATOON (2ND BATTALION, CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE) AT SCOTTISH LINES NEAR POPERINGHE, NOT FAR FROM YPRES. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN BY AN OFFICIAL WAR PHOTOGRAPHER WHILE THE 2ND BATTALION WAS OUT IN REST BILLETTS AFTER FIGHTING AT SANCTUARY WOODS, MAPLE COPSE (BATTLE OF THE SOMME). LT. STRACHAN IS IN THE BACK ROW, FAR LEFT. JUNE 1916.

BOTTOM: LT. H. STRACHAN, V.C., & SQUADRON OF FORT GARRY HORSE PASSING THROUGH VILLAGE ON CAMBRAI FRONT. DECEMBER 1917.





# JAMES EDWARD TAIT



NAME

TAIT, James Edward

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

27 May 1888

PLACE OF BIRTH

Maxwelltown (Dumfries), Scotland

ENLISTMENT DATE

February 1916

UNIT

78th Infantry Battalion  
(Winnipeg Grenadiers), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

11 August 1918

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Amiens, France

James Edward Tait was born in Maxwelltown, Scotland, on 27 May 1888 and later came to Canada. In November 1915, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was commissioned as an officer. Tait received the Military Cross for his conduct on 9 April 1917, the day the Canadian Corps attacked and captured Vimy Ridge in France.

Lieutenant Tait earned the Victoria Cross posthumously for his actions while serving with the 78th Infantry Battalion during the first four days of the Battle of Amiens, 8 to 11 August 1918. When the progress of his company was checked by German machine guns in Beaucourt Wood in France, Tait rallied his men and led them forward despite the intense fire. A concealed enemy machine gun continued to cause heavy casualties until Tait charged the gun position alone and killed the gunner. Inspired by his action, his men attacked the main German position, capturing 20 prisoners and 12 machine guns. This enabled the 78th Battalion to resume its advance.

During a later enemy counterattack, Tait, although severely wounded by an exploding shell, continued to direct his men in the defence until he died.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack. The advance having been checked by intense machine-gun fire, Lt. Tait rallied his company and led it forward with consummate skill and dash under a hail of bullets. A concealed machine-gun, however, continued to cause many casualties. Taking a rifle and bayonet, Lt. Tait dashed forward alone and killed the enemy gunner. Inspired by his example his men rushed the position, capturing twelve

machine-guns and twenty prisoners. His valorous action cleared the way for his battalion to advance.

Later when the enemy counter-attacked our positions under intense artillery bombardment, this gallant officer displayed outstanding courage and leadership, and though mortally wounded by a shell, continued to direct and aid his men until his death.

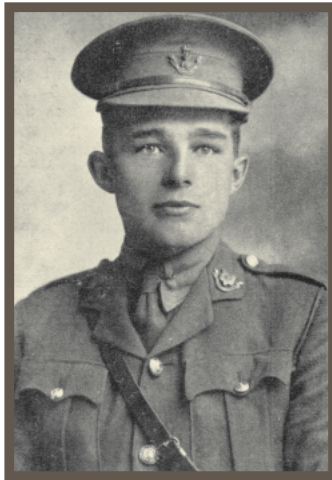
*(London Gazette, no. 30922, 27 September 1918)*

TOP: MACHINE GUNNERS ADVANCING INTO A WOOD AND PASSING A GERMAN GUN. BATTLE OF AMIENS. AUGUST 1918.

BOTTOM: 60-POUNDERS IN ACTION. BATTLE OF AMIENS. AUGUST 1918.



# THOMAS ORDE LAWDER WILKINSON



NAME

WILKINSON, Thomas Orde Lawder

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

29 June 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH

Bridgnorth, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1914

UNIT

7th Battalion,  
Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, British Army

DATE OF DEATH

5 July 1916

PLACE OF DEATH

La Boisselle, France

**B**orn in Shropshire, England, Thomas Wilkinson came to Canada before the First World War. On 23 September 1914, he enlisted with the 16th (Canadian Scottish) Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and then transferred to the 7th Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, to serve as a gunnery officer.

On 5 July 1916 at La Boisselle, France, when a party of men from another unit were retiring without their machine gun, Lieutenant Wilkinson and two of his men got the gun into action and held off the enemy until relieved. Wilkinson later forced his way forward during a bombing attack, finding several men stopped by a wall of earth over which the enemy was throwing bombs. He mounted the machine gun on top of the parapet and attacked the bombers. He was subsequently killed trying to bring in a wounded man.

Wilkinson is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

26 SEPTEMBER, 1916

For most conspicuous bravery. During an attack, when a party of another unit was retiring without their machine-gun, Lieut. Wilkinson rushed forward, and, with two of his men, got the gun into action, and held up the enemy till they were relieved. Later, when the advance was checked during a bombing attack, he forced his way forward and found four or five men of different units stopped by a solid block of earth, over which the enemy was throwing

bombs. With great pluck and promptness he mounted a machine-gun on the top of the parapet and dispersed the enemy bombers. Subsequently he made two most gallant attempts to bring in a wounded man, but at the second attempt he was shot through the heart just before reaching the man. Throughout the day he set a magnificent example of courage and self-sacrifice.

*(London Gazette, 26 September 1916)*

BRINGING IN THE DEAD ON THE SOMME  
BATTLEFIELDS, JULY 1916, CANADIAN WAR  
RECORDS OFFICE.



# JOHN FRANCIS YOUNG



NAME

YOUNG, John Francis

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

14 January 1893

PLACE OF BIRTH

Kidderminster, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

October 1915

UNIT

87th Infantry Battalion  
(Canadian Grenadier Guards), CEF

DATE OF DEATH

7 November 1929

PLACE OF DEATH

Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec

John Francis Young was born in Kidderminster, England, on 14 January 1893, and it is believed that he came to Canada as a young man. When the First World War began, he enlisted in the 87th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, serving as a stretcher-bearer.

Private Young was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conduct on 2 September 1918 during the fighting for the Drocourt-Quéant Line, near Dury, France. On that day, his company suffered heavy casualties from German shell and machine gun fire. Young went out to treat the wounded, despite the absence of any cover. When he ran out of dressings, he went back to his company headquarters for more medical supplies and then returned to his task, all the while under enemy fire. Later, when the German fire had slackened somewhat, Young organized and led stretcher parties to bring in the wounded men he had treated. Private Young's courage throughout this action resulted in many lives being saved.

Young died in Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec, on 7 November 1929.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 DECEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack at Dury-Arras sector on the 2nd September, 1918, when acting as a stretcher-bearer attached to 'D' Company of the 87th Bn., Quebec Regiment.

This company in the advance over the ridge suffered heavy casualties from shell and machine-gun fire.

Pte. Young, in spite of the complete absence of cover, without the least hesitation went out, and in the open fire-swept ground dressed the wounded. Having exhausted his stock of dressings, on more than one occasion he returned, under intense fire, to his company headquarters for

a further supply. This work he continued for over an hour, displaying throughout the most absolute fearlessness.

To his courageous conduct must be ascribed the saving of the lives of many of his comrades.

Later, when the fire had somewhat slackened, he organised and led stretcher parties to bring in the wounded whom he had dressed.

All through the operations of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th September Pte. Young continued to show the greatest valour and devotion to duty.

*(London Gazette, no. 31067, 14 December 1918)*



# RAPHAEL LOUIS ZENGEL



NAME

ZENGEL, Raphael Louis

RANK

Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH

11 November 1894

PLACE OF BIRTH

Faribault, Minnesota

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1914

UNIT

5th (Western Cavalry) Infantry Battalion,  
CEF

DATE OF DEATH

27 February 1977

PLACE OF DEATH

Errington, British Columbia

**R**aphael Louis Zengel was born on 11 November 1894 in Faribault, Minnesota. When he was still very young, he and his mother moved from the United States to a homestead in Saskatchewan. Zengel enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in December 1914. He served overseas with the 5th Infantry Battalion, taking part in several raids on German trenches. In 1917, Zengel received the Military Medal for his role in one of these raids, near Passchendaele, Belgium.

On 9 August 1918, Sergeant Zengel was leading his platoon forward during the second day of the massive Allied offensive against the German lines around Amiens, France. When he noticed a gap on the flank of his platoon and an enemy machine gun firing on the advancing Canadians at close range, he quickly decided to deal with the machine gun position himself. Rushing 200 metres ahead of his platoon, Zengel charged the German emplacement, killing two of the machine gun's crew and compelling the rest to flee. Later that day, when the progress of the 5th Battalion was blocked by heavy machine gun fire, he demonstrated great tactical skill in directing the fire of his platoon to eliminate the enemy resistance.

Sergeant Zengel's courage, leadership, and disregard for his own safety inspired his men and were important factors in enabling the advance to continue. For his conduct on that day, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Zengel died in Errington, British Columbia, on 27 February 1977.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 SEPTEMBER, 1918

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when protecting the battalion right flank. He was leading his platoon gallantly forward to the attack, but had not gone far when he realised that a gap had occurred on his flank, and that an enemy machine gun was firing at close range into the advancing line. Grasping the situation, he rushed forward some 200 yards ahead of the platoon, tackled the machine-gun emplacement, killed the officer and operator of the gun, and dispersed the crew. By his boldness and prompt action he undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.

Later, when the battalion was held up by very heavy machine-gun fire, he displayed much tactical skill and directed his fire with destructive results. Shortly afterwards he was rendered unconscious for a few minutes by an enemy shell, but on recovering consciousness he at once continued to direct harassing fire on the enemy.

Sjt. Zengel's work throughout the attack was excellent, and his utter disregard for personal safety, and the confidence he inspired in all ranks, greatly assisted in bringing the attack to a successful end.

*(London Gazette, no. 30922, 27 September 1918)*



## RECIPIENTS

BAZALGETTE, Ian Willoughby

COSENS, Aubrey

CURRIE, David Vivian

FOOTE, John Weir

GRAY, Robert Hampton

HOEY, Charles Ferguson

HORNELL, David Ernest

MAHONY, John Keefer

MERRITT, Charles Cecil Ingersoll

MYNARSKI, Andrew Charles

OSBORN, John Robert

PETERS, Frederick Thornton

SMITH, Ernest Alvia

TILSTON, Frederick Albert

TOPHAM, Frederick George

TRIQUET, Paul



# THE SECOND WORLD WAR



1939-1945



# IAN WILLOUGHBY BAZALGETTE



#### NAME

BAZALGETTE, Ian Willoughby

#### RANK

Squadron Leader

#### DATE OF BIRTH

19 October 1918

#### PLACE OF BIRTH

Calgary, Alberta

#### ENLISTMENT DATE

September 1940

#### UNIT

No. 635 (Pathfinder) Squadron,  
Royal Air Force

#### DATE OF DEATH

4 August 1944

#### PLACE OF DEATH

Trossy St Maximin, France

**B**orn on 19 October 1918 in Calgary, Alberta, Ian Willoughby Bazalgette was the son of Charles Ian and Marion Edith (née Bunn) Bazalgette. In 1923, his family moved to Toronto, Ontario, where he received his early education at Balmy Beach School. They then moved to England, and he completed his education by attending Rokeby, the Downs, Wimbledon, and by studying with a private tutor.

In September 1940, Bazalgette received a commission in the Royal Artillery, and the following year he transferred to the Royal Air Force (RAF) Volunteer Reserve. In the autumn of 1942, he was posted to No. 115 Squadron, RAF, for flying duties. He won a Distinguished Flying Cross in Italy on 9 July 1943.

In September 1943, Bazalgette went to an operational training unit as an instructor and in April 1944 was posted to No. 635 (Pathfinder) Squadron as a flight commander with the rank of squadron leader. While conducting an important mission on 4 August that year, his Lancaster was seriously damaged. He ordered his crew to jump. Though the aircraft was burning, Squadron Leader Bazalgette pressed on to successfully bomb and mark the target. Taking care to avoid a French village, he brought his aircraft safely down to save his wounded bomb aimer and air gunner, still on board. The aircraft then exploded, killing him and his two comrades.

Bazalgette was buried in the military plot in Senantes Churchyard, Oise, a few kilometres northwest of Beauvais, France. His medal is on display at the RAF Hendon Museum in England. In 1949, a mountain in Jasper National Park, Alberta, was named after him.

In the summer of 1990, Mrs. Ethel Broderick, Ian Bazalgette's sister, unveiled a memorial plaque at the Nanton Lancaster Museum in Nanton, Alberta. Chuck Godfrey, DFC, Bazalgette's wireless operator on the VC flight, and George Turner, his flight engineer, unveiled the markings of the Bazalgette aircraft (F2-T). Flypasts included an Armed Forces CF-5 and an Aurora from No. 407 Squadron in Comox, British Columbia. Hamish Mahaddie, an RAF legend who had arranged for Bazalgette to join the Pathfinders, and Larry Melling, DFC, a pilot who had flown with "Baz" on No. 635 Squadron, were special guest speakers at the banquet. The master of ceremonies was Duke Warren, DFC.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of two Lancaster bombers flying in formation against a cloudy sky. The bombers are dark-colored with light-colored stripes on the wings. The tail of the lower bomber is clearly visible, showing the letters 'KM' and a circular emblem with a crosshair, followed by the letter 'Y'.

# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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14 AUGUST, 1945

On 4th August 1944 Squadron Leader Bazalgette was “Master bomber” of a Pathfinder Squadron detailed to mark an important target for the main bomber force. When nearing the target his Lancaster was seriously damaged and set on fire by anti-aircraft fire; the bomb aimer was badly wounded. As the deputy “Master bomber” had already been shot down, the success of the attack depended on Squadron Leader Bazalgette who despite appalling conditions in his burning aircraft pressed on gallantly, bombed, and marked the target accurately. That the attack was successful was due to his magnificent effort. The condition of the aircraft had by now become so bad that Squadron Leader Bazalgette ordered his crew to leave the aircraft by parachute. He attempted the almost hopeless task of landing the crippled and blazing aircraft to save the wounded bomb aimer, and one air-gunner, who had been overcome by

fumes. With superb skill and taking great care to avoid a French village, he brought the aircraft safely down. Unfortunately it then exploded and this gallant officer and his two comrades perished. His heroic sacrifice marked the climax of a long career of operations against the enemy. He always chose the more dangerous and exacting roles. His courage and devotion to duty were beyond praise. Distinguished Flying Cross, Award effective 1 July 1943 as per London Gazette dated 9 July 1943, “This officer has at all times displayed the greatest keenness for operational flying. He has taken part in many sorties and attacked heavily defended targets such as Duisburg, Berlin, Essen and Turin. His gallantry and devotion to duty have at all times been exceptional and his record commands the respect of all of his squadron.

*(The London Gazette, 14 August 1945)*



# AUBREY COSENS



NAME  
COSENS, Aubrey

RANK  
Sergeant

DATE OF BIRTH  
21 May 1921

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Latchford, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1940

UNIT  
Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

DATE OF DEATH  
26 February 1945

PLACE OF DEATH  
Mooshof, Germany

Aubrey Cosens was born in Latchford, Ontario, on 21 May 1921. During the Second World War, he enlisted in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, but in mid-1944 he transferred to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Sergeant Cosens was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his bravery and determined leadership in action at Mooshof, Germany, on 25 and 26 February 1945. With two tanks in support, Cosens's platoon twice attacked German strongpoints located in three farm buildings and was beaten back on both occasions. The platoon was then subjected to a fierce counterattack, during which the commander was killed.

Sergeant Cosens assumed leadership of the platoon, now reduced to himself and four men. As the four others provided covering fire, he ran across open ground to the remaining serviceable tank and directed its fire on the farm buildings. Having ordered the tank to ram the first building, Cosens entered it alone, killing several of the occupants and taking the rest prisoner. He then continued alone into the second and third buildings, killing or capturing what remained of the enemy. Just after the successful reduction of the strongpoints, Sergeant Cosens was shot through the head by an enemy sniper and died.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

22 MAY, 1945

In Holland, on the night of 25th/26th February, 1945, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, launched an attack on the hamlet of Mooshof, to capture ground which was considered essential for the successful development of future operations.

Sergeant Cosens' platoon, with two tanks in support, attacked enemy strongpoints in three farm buildings, but were twice beaten back by fanatical enemy resistance and then fiercely counter-attacked, during which time the platoon suffered heavy casualties and the platoon commander was killed.

Sergeant Cosens at once assumed command of the only other four survivors

of his platoon, whom he placed in a position to give him covering fire, while he himself ran across open ground under heavy mortar and shell fire to the one remaining tank, where, regardless of danger, he took up an exposed place in front of the turret and directed its fire.

After a further enemy counter-attack had been repulsed, Sergeant Cosens ordered the tank to attack the farm buildings, while the four survivors of his platoon followed in close support. After the tank had rammed the first building he entered it alone, killing several of the defenders and taking the rest prisoner.

Single-handed he then entered the second and third buildings and personally

killed or captured all the occupants, although under intense machine gun and small arms fire.

Just after the successful reduction of these important enemy strongpoints, Sergeant Cosens was shot through the head by an enemy sniper and died almost instantly.

The outstanding gallantry, initiative and determined leadership of this brave N.C.O., who himself killed at least twenty of the enemy and took an equal number of prisoners, resulted in the capture of a position which was vital to the success of the future operations of the Brigade.

*(London Gazette, no. 37086, 22 May 1945)*



# DAVID VIVIAN CURRIE



NAME  
CURRIE, David Vivian

RANK  
Major

DATE OF BIRTH  
8 July 1912

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Sutherland, Saskatchewan

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1939

UNIT  
29th Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment  
(South Alberta Regiment)

DATE OF DEATH  
24 June 1986

PLACE OF DEATH  
Ottawa, Ontario

David Vivian Currie was born in Sutherland, Saskatchewan, on 8 July 1912. Before the Second World War, he was a member of a militia unit based in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. During the campaign in France following the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944, Currie was serving with the 29th Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (the South Alberta Regiment).

Major Currie earned the Victoria Cross for his efforts on 18 August 1944 to capture and hold the village of St Lambert-sur-Dives during the fighting to block the escape route of large German forces cut off in the Falaise pocket. Leading a small force of tanks, infantry, and anti-tank guns, but with no supporting field artillery fire, he organized an attack on the village and succeeded in seizing and consolidating a position halfway inside it.

For 36 hours, Currie's group repeatedly thwarted attempts by German tanks and infantry to force a way through the village by counterattacking the Canadians. Finally, Major Currie and his men renewed their attack and drove the enemy out of St Lambert-sur-Dives, completing the capture of the village. His force had inflicted 800 casualties on the Germans and taken 2,100 prisoners.

Currie died in Ottawa, Ontario, on 24 June 1986.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

27 NOVEMBER, 1944

In Normandy on 18th August, 1944, Major Currie was in command of a small mixed force of Canadian tanks, self-propelled anti-tank guns and infantry which was ordered to cut one of the main escape routes from the Falaise pocket.

This force was held up by strong enemy resistance in the village of St. Lambert sur Dives and two tanks were knocked out by 88 mm guns. Major Currie immediately entered the village alone on foot at last light through the enemy outposts to reconnoitre the German defences and to extricate the crews of the disabled tanks, which he succeeded in doing in spite of heavy mortar fire.

Early the following morning, without any previous artillery bombardment, Major Currie personally led an attack on the village in the face of fierce opposition from enemy tanks, guns and infantry and by noon had succeeded in seizing and consolidating a position half-way inside the village.

During the next 36 hours the Germans hurled one counter-attack after another against the Canadian force but so skilfully had Major Currie organised his defensive position that these attacks were repulsed with severe casualties to the enemy after heavy fighting.

At dusk on 20th August the Germans attempted to mount a final assault on the Canadian positions, but the attacking force was routed before it could even be

deployed. Seven enemy tanks, twelve 88 mm. guns and forty vehicles were destroyed, 300 Germans were killed, 500 wounded and 2,100 captured. Major Currie then promptly ordered an attack and completed the capture of the village, thus denying the Chambois-Trun escape route to the remnants of two German armies cut off in the Falaise pocket.

Throughout three days and nights of fierce fighting, Major Currie's gallant conduct and contempt for danger set a magnificent example to all ranks of the force under his command.

On one occasion he personally directed the fire of his command tank on to a Tiger tank which had been harassing his position and succeeded in knocking it out. During another attack, while the guns of his command tank were taking on other targets of longer ranges, he used a rifle from the turret to deal with individual snipers who had infiltrated to within fifty yards of his headquarters. The only time reinforcements were able to get through to his force, he himself led the forty men forward into their positions and explained the importance of their task as a part of the defence. When, during the next attack, these new reinforcements withdrew under the intense fire brought down by the enemy, he personally collected them and led them forward into position again, where, inspired by

his leadership they held for the remainder of the battle. His employment of the artillery support, which became available after his original attack went in, was typical of his cool calculation of the risks involved in every situation. At one time, despite the fact that short rounds were falling within fifteen yards of his own tank, he ordered fire from

medium artillery to continue because of its devastating effect upon the attacking enemy in his immediate area.

Throughout the operation the casualties to Major Currie's force were heavy. However, he never considered the possibility of failure or allowed it to enter the minds of his men. In the words of one of his non-commissioned officers, 'We knew at one stage that it was going to be a fight to a finish but he was so cool about it, it was impossible for us to get excited'. Since all the officers under his command were either killed or wounded during the action, Major Currie had virtually no respite from his duties and in fact obtained only one hour's sleep during the entire period. Nevertheless he did not permit his fatigue to become apparent to his troops and throughout the action took every



MAJOR DAVID V. CURRIE (LEFT, WITH PISTOL IN HAND) OF THE SOUTH ALBERTA REGIMENT ACCEPTING THE SURRENDER OF GERMAN TROOPS AT ST. LAMBERT-SUR-DIVES, FRANCE, 19 AUGUST 1944. THIS PHOTO CAPTURES THE VERY MOMENT AND ACTIONS THAT WOULD LEAD TO MAJOR CURRIE BEING AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS.

opportunity to visit weapon pits and other defensive posts to talk to his men, to advise them as to the best use of their weapons and to cheer them with words of encouragement. When his force was finally relieved and he was satisfied that the turnover was complete he fell asleep on his feet and collapsed.

There can be no doubt that the success of the attack on and stand against the enemy at St. Lambert sur Dives can largely be attributed to this officer's coolness, inspired leadership and skilful use of the limited weapons at his disposal.

The courage and devotion to duty shown by Major Currie during a prolonged period of heavy fighting were outstanding and had a far-reaching effect on the successful outcome of the battle.

(*London Gazette*, no. 36812, 27 November 1944)



# JOHN WEIR FOOTE



NAME

FOOTE, John Weir

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

5 May 1904

PLACE OF BIRTH

Madoc, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1939

UNIT

Canadian Chaplain Service  
Royal Hamilton Light Infantry  
(Wentworth Regiment)

DATE OF DEATH

2 May 1988

PLACE OF DEATH

Cobourg, Ontario

**J**ohn Weir Foote was born in Madoc, Ontario, on 5 May 1904. A Presbyterian minister, he joined the Canadian Chaplain Service at the beginning of the Second World War.

On 19 August 1942, Honorary Captain Foote was attached to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI), one of the battalions from the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division that participated in the raid on the French port of Dieppe on that day. After landing, Padre Foote assisted the RHLI's medical officer in caring for the wounded at the regimental aid post. However, he frequently left the relative safety of that location for the open beach where he rendered first aid and gave injections of morphine to alleviate the suffering of the many wounded there. Later, he carried injured men from the regimental aid post to landing craft waiting to evacuate the survivors of the raiding force. Foote declined the opportunity to embark, preferring to continue to minister to those left behind and to share their fate as prisoners of war.

At the end of the war, Foote received the Victoria Cross for his conduct at Dieppe, the first ever awarded to a Canadian chaplain. He died in Cobourg, Ontario, on 2 May 1988.





# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 FEBRUARY, 1946

At Dieppe, on 19th August, 1942, Honorary Captain Foot, Canadian Chaplain Services, was Regimental Chaplain with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

Upon landing on the beach under heavy fire he attached himself to the Regimental Aid Post which had been set up in a slight depression on the beach, but which was only sufficient to give cover to me lying down. During the subsequent period of approximately eight hours, while the action continued, this officer not only assisted the Regimental Medical Officer in ministering to the wounded in the Regimental Aid Post, but time and again left this shelter to inject morphine, give first-aid and carry wounded personnel from the open beach to the

Regimental Aid Post. On these occasions, with utter disregard for his personal safety, Honorary Captain Foote exposed himself to an inferno of fire and saved many lives by his gallant efforts. During the action, as the tide went out, the Regimental Aid Post was moved to the shelter of a stranded landing craft. Honorary Captain Foote continued tirelessly and courageously to carry wounded men from the exposed beach to the cover of the landing craft. He also removed wounded from inside the landing craft when ammunition had been set on fire by enemy shells. When landing craft appeared he carried wounded from the Regimental Aid Post to the landing craft through very heavy fire.

On several occasions this officer had the opportunity to embark but returned to the beach as his chief concern was the care and evacuation of the wounded. He refused a final opportunity to leave the shore, choosing to suffer the fate of the men he had ministered to for over three years.

Honorary Captain Foote personally saved many lives by his efforts and his example inspired all around him. Those who observed him state that the calmness of this heroic officer as he walked about, collecting the wounded on the fire-swept beach will never be forgotten.

*(London Gazette, no. 37466, 14 February 1946)*



# ROBERT HAMPTON GRAY



NAME

GRAY, Robert Hampton

RANK

Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

2 November 1917

PLACE OF BIRTH

Trail, British Columbia

ENLISTMENT DATE

1940

UNIT

Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve  
/ Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm

DATE OF DEATH

9 August 1945

PLACE OF DEATH

Onagawa Wan, Honshu, Japan

**R**obert Hampton Gray was born in Trail, British Columbia, on 2 November 1917. Joining the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve in July 1940, he was assigned to the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm, in which he trained as a fighter pilot and remained for the rest of the Second World War. Gray served in Britain, East Africa, and finally with the British Pacific Fleet, which, in the final weeks of the war, was operating against the Japanese home islands with the United States Navy's Third Fleet. Gray received the Distinguished Service Cross for sinking a Japanese destroyer on 28 July 1945.

Lieutenant Gray was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for his actions on 9 August 1945. On that day, he led eight Corsair fighters from HMS *Formidable* on a mission to bomb enemy shipping in Onagawa Wan; each aircraft carried two 500-pound bombs. As Gray commenced his attack, he met very heavy anti-aircraft fire and his fighter was hit almost immediately, which dislodged one of his bombs and caused the aircraft to catch fire. Despite the damage, Lieutenant Gray pressed home his attack with great determination and with his remaining bomb scored a direct hit on the Japanese escort vessel *Amakusa*, which subsequently sank. Instead of taking evasive action to avoid enemy fire, his aircraft then turned slowly to starboard, rolled onto its back and plunged into the bay, leading to speculation that Gray may have been wounded during his run-up to the target. He did not survive.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

13 NOVEMBER, 1945

...for great valour in leading an attack on a Japanese destroyer in Onagawa Wan on 9th August, 1945. In the face of fire from shore batteries and a heavy concentration of fire from some five warships Lieutenant Gray pressed home his attack, flying very low in order to ensure success, and, although

he was hit and his aircraft was in flames, he obtained at least one direct hit, sinking the destroyer. Lieutenant Gray has consistently shown a brilliant fighting spirit and most inspiring leadership.

*(London Gazette, no. 37346, 13 November 1945)*

TOP: *FORMIDABLE* UNDERWAY, 3 AUGUST 1942.

BOTTOM: *CORSAIR* UNDERSIDE.



# CHARLES FERGUSON HOEY



NAME

HOEY, Charles Ferguson

RANK

Major

DATE OF BIRTH

29 March 1914

PLACE OF BIRTH

Duncan, British Columbia

ENLISTMENT DATE

December 1936

UNIT

1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment,  
British Army

DATE OF DEATH

16 February 1944

PLACE OF DEATH

Near the Ngakyedauk Pass,  
Arakan, Burma (Myanmar)



Charles Ferguson Hoey, son of Ferguson and Mary Rudyard Hoey, was born on 29 March 1914 in Duncan, on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. He was educated at Duncan Grammar School and Duncan High School.

In April 1933, Hoey went to England with the intention of making the army his career. He first enlisted in the West Kent Regiment. He won a cadetship to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst and started there in September 1935. After graduating from Sandhurst in December 1936 and making a brief visit home to Duncan, he joined the 2nd Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment (which later became the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment). He transferred to the 1st Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, which was at that time in India, and sailed there in September 1937. He went to Burma (Myanmar) with the 1st Battalion in 1942 and served until his death in February 1944.

Major Hoey was awarded the Military Cross for his outstanding service at Maungdaw in July 1943, during a raid on a Japanese position. The Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously as a result of his actions on 16 February 1944. His company formed part of a force that was ordered to capture a position at all costs. Although wounded in the head and at least twice in the leg, he led his men to the enemy strong post, killing all the occupants before being mortally wounded.

Hoey was buried in Taukkyan Cemetery, Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar). His Victoria Cross is on display at the Sabraon Barrack in Lincoln, England.

# The London Gazette,

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Published by Authority.

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19 MAY, 1944

In Burma, on the 16th February 1944, Major Hoey's company formed a part of a force which was ordered to capture a position at all costs. After a night march through enemy held territory the force was met at the foot of the position by heavy machine-gun fire. Major Hoey personally led his company under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire right up to the objective. Although wounded at least twice in the leg and head, he seized a Bren gun from one of his men and firing from the hip, led his company on to the objective. In spite of his

wounds the company had difficulty keeping up with him, and Major Hoey reached the enemy strong post first, where he killed all the occupants before being mortally wounded. Major Hoey's outstanding gallantry and leadership, his total disregard of personal safety and his grim determination to reach the objective resulted in the capture of this vital position. Military Cross awarded posthumously (July 1943 Maungdaw), 1939-45 Star, Burma Star, 1939-45 Medal.

*(The London Gazette, 19 May 1944)*



# DAVID ERNEST HORNELL



NAME

HORNELL, David Ernest

RANK

Flight Lieutenant

DATE OF BIRTH

26 January 1910

PLACE OF BIRTH

Toronto, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

January 1941

UNIT

No. 162 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force

DATE OF DEATH

24 June 1944

PLACE OF DEATH

North Atlantic

David Ernest Hornell was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 26 January 1910. In 1941, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), qualified as a pilot, and was commissioned in 1942. At the time of the action for which he received the Victoria Cross posthumously, Flight Lieutenant Hornell was flying as an aircraft captain on Consolidated Canso amphibians with No. 162 (Bomber Reconnaissance) Squadron, RCAF, from the Royal Air Force (RAF) Station Wick in northern Scotland.

Late in the day on 24 June 1944, Hornell's Canso was at the end of a 12-hour patrol over the North Atlantic when the German submarine U-1225 was sighted on the surface approximately 120 miles north of the Shetland Islands. As the aircraft made its attack run, heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire from the U-boat crippled the starboard engine and started a fire on the starboard wing. With great determination and skill, Flight Lieutenant Hornell held the vibrating Canso on course and delivered his four depth charges on target, sinking the submarine. Shortly thereafter, the starboard engine fell out of the wing, forcing Hornell to ditch the aircraft, by now a flaming wreck, in the heavy seas. With only one dinghy serviceable, which was too small to hold all eight members of the crew, for several hours they had to take turns clinging to the side of the life raft while immersed in the icy water. Although the dinghy was spotted by a Consolidated Catalina flying boat from No. 333 (Norwegian) Squadron, RAF, five hours after Hornell had ditched, for the next 16 hours rescue attempts were frustrated by high seas and malfunctioning equipment. Two of the crew members eventually died of exposure. At one point, Hornell had to be restrained by his comrades when, though at the end of his own strength and about to go blind, he proposed to swim to an airborne lifeboat that had been dropped. Finally, after 21 hours, a rescue launch arrived to pick up the survivors, but all attempts to revive Hornell failed and he died of exposure.

Hornell was the first member of the RCAF to be awarded the Victoria Cross.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

28 JULY, 1944

Flight Lieutenant Hornell was captain and first pilot of a twin-engined amphibian aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol in northern waters. The patrol had lasted for some hours when a fully-surfaced U-boat was sighted, travelling at high speed on the port beam. Flight Lieutenant Hornell at once turned to the attack.

The U-boat altered course. The aircraft had been seen and there could be no surprise. The U-boat opened up with anti-aircraft fire which became increasingly fierce and accurate.

At a range of 1,200 yards, the front guns of the aircraft replied; then its starboard guns jammed, leaving only one gun effective. Hits were obtained on and around the conning-tower of the U-boat, but the aircraft was itself hit, two large holes appearing in the starboard wing.

Ignoring the enemy's fire, Flight Lieutenant Hornell carefully manoeuvred for the attack. Oil was pouring from his starboard engine, which was, by this time, on fire, as was the starboard wing; and the petrol tanks were endangered. Meanwhile, the aircraft was hit again and again by the U-boat's guns. Holed in many places, it was vibrating violently and very difficult to control.

Nevertheless, the captain decided to

press home his attack, knowing that with every moment the chances of escape for him and his gallant crew would grow more slender. He brought his aircraft down very low and released his depth charges in a perfect straddle. The bows of the U-boat were lifted out of the water; it sank and the crew were seen in the sea.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell contrived, by superhuman efforts at the controls, to gain a little height. The fire in the starboard wing had grown more intense and the vibration had increased. Then the burning engine fell off. The plight of aircraft and crew was now desperate. With the utmost coolness, the captain took his aircraft into wind and, despite the manifold dangers, brought it safely down on the heavy swell. Badly damaged and blazing furiously, the aircraft rapidly settled.

After ordeal by fire came ordeal by water. There was only one serviceable dinghy and this could not hold all the crew. So they took turns in the water, holding on to the sides. Once, the dinghy capsized in the rough seas and was righted only with great difficulty. Two of the crew succumbed from exposure.

An airborne lifeboat was dropped to them but fell some 500 yards down wind. The men struggled vainly to reach it and



FINAL RESCUE OF DAVID HORNELL'S CREW.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell, who throughout had encouraged them by his cheerfulness and inspiring leadership, proposed to swim to it, through he was nearly exhausted. He was with difficulty restrained. The survivors were finally rescued after they had been in the water for 21 hours. By this time Flight Lieutenant Hornell was blinded and completely exhausted. He died shortly after being picked up.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell had

completed 60 operational missions, involving 600 hours' flying. He well knew the danger and difficulties attending attacks on submarines. By pressing home a skilful and successful attack against fierce opposition, with his aircraft in a precarious condition, and by fortifying and encouraging his comrades in the subsequent ordeal, this officer displayed valour and devotion to duty of the highest order.

*(London Gazette, no. 36630, 28 July 1944)*



# JOHN KEEFER MAHONY



NAME  
MAHONY, John Keefer

RANK  
Major

DATE OF BIRTH  
30 June 1911

PLACE OF BIRTH  
New Westminster, British Columbia

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1939

UNIT  
Westminster Regiment

DATE OF DEATH  
15 December 1990

PLACE OF DEATH  
London, Ontario

John Keefer Mahony was born in New Westminster, British Columbia, on 30 June 1911. Before the Second World War, he was a militia officer in the Westminster Regiment, and would remain with the regiment as it was mobilized overseas.

On 24 May 1944, Major Mahony led his company across the Melfa River in Italy under heavy artillery fire. His task was to secure a firm bridgehead on the western side of the river as part of the operations by the 1st Canadian Corps to break through the Adolf Hitler Line. Although threatened by vastly superior forces, Mahony's company managed to hold the bridgehead for five hours under continuous fire until reinforcements arrived. In two German counterattacks, his men destroyed three enemy self-propelled guns and one tank – a significant feat considering that they had no anti-tank guns.

Though he suffered three wounds, throughout Mahony was a constant source of inspiration and determination as he tirelessly organized the defence, visited his men in their positions, and personally directed the fire of the light anti-tank weapons on hand. For his exemplary leadership and courage in this action, Major Mahony was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Mahony died in London, Ontario, on 15 December 1990.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

13 JULY, 1944

On the 24th May, 1944, 'A' Company of the Westminster Regiment (Motor), under the command of Major Mahony, was ordered to establish the initial bridgehead across the river Melfa.

The enemy still had strong forces of tanks, self-propelled guns and infantry holding defensive positions on the East side of the river. Despite this, Major Mahony personally led his Company down to and across the river, being with the leading section. Although the crossing was made in full view of and under heavy fire from enemy machine-gun posts on the right rear and left front, he personally directed each section into its proper position on the West bank with the greatest coolness and confidence. The crossing was made and a small bridgehead was established on ground where it was only possible to dig shallow weapon pits. From 1530 hours the Company maintained itself in the face of enemy fire and attack until 2030 hours, when the remaining Companies and supporting weapons were able to cross the river and reinforce them.

The bridgehead was enclosed on three sides by an 88 mm. self-propelled gun 450 yards to the right, a battery of four 2 cm. A.A. guns 100 yards to the left, a Spandau 100 yards to the left of it, to the left of the Spandau a second 88 mm.

self-propelled gun, and approximately a Company of infantry with mortars and machine-guns on the left of the 88 mm. gun. From all these weapons, Major Mahony's Company was constantly under fire until it eventually succeeded in knocking out the self-propelled equipment and the infantry on the left flank.

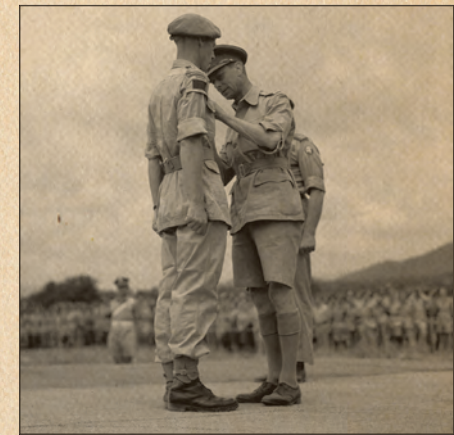
Shortly after the bridgehead had been established, the enemy counter-attacked with infantry supported by tanks and self-propelled guns. The counter-attack was beaten off by the Company with its P.I.A.T.'s, 2" Mortars and Grenades, due to the skill with which Major Mahony had organised his defences. With absolute fearlessness and disregard for his own safety, Major Mahony personally directed the fire of his P.I.A.T.'s throughout this action, encouraging and exhorting his men. By this time, the Company strength had been reduced to 60 men, and all but one of the Platoon Officers had been wounded. Scarcely an hour later, enemy tanks formed up about 500 yards in front of the bridgehead and in company with about a Company of infantry, launched a second counter-attack. Major Mahony, determined to hold the position at all costs, went from section to section with words of encouragement, personally directing fire of Mortars and other weapons.

At one stage, a section was pinned down in the open by accurate and intense machine-gun fire. Major Mahony crawled forward to their position, and by throwing Smoke Grenades, succeeded in extricating the section from its position with the loss of only one man. This counter-attack was finally beaten off with the destruction of three enemy self-propelled guns and one Panther tank.

Early in the action, Major Mahony was wounded in the head and twice in the leg, but he refused medical aid and continued to direct the defence of the bridgehead, despite the fact that movement of any kind caused him extreme pain. It was only when the remaining Companies of the Regiment had crossed the river to support him that he allowed his wounds to be dressed and even then refused to be evacuated, staying instead with his Company.

The forming and holding of a bridgehead across the river was vital to the whole Canadian Corps action, and failure would have meant delay, a repetition of the attack, probably involving heavy losses in men, material and time, and would have given the enemy a breathing space which might have broken the impetus of the Corps advance.

Major Mahony, knowing this, never allowed the thought of failure or withdrawal to enter his mind, and infused his spirit



PRESENTATION OF VICTORIA CROSS TO MAJ. MAHONY BY KING GEORGE VI IN ITALY.

and determination into all his men. At the first sign of hesitation or faltering, Major Mahony was there to encourage, by his own example, those who were feeling the strain of battle. The enemy perceived that this officer was the soul of the defence and consequently fired at him constantly with all weapons, from rifles to 88 mm. guns. Major Mahony completely ignored the enemy fire and with great courage and absolute disregard for personal danger, commanded his Company with such great confidence, energy and skill that the enemy's efforts to destroy the bridgehead were all defeated.

The great courage shown by Major Mahony in this action will forever be an inspiration to his Regiment and to the Canadian Army.

(London Gazette, no. 36605, 13 July 1944)



# CHARLES CECIL INGERSOLL MERRITT



#### NAME

MERRITT, Charles Cecil Ingersoll

#### RANK

Lieutenant-Colonel

#### DATE OF BIRTH

10 November 1908

#### PLACE OF BIRTH

Vancouver, British Columbia

#### ENLISTMENT DATE

1939

#### UNIT

South Saskatchewan Regiment,  
2nd Canadian Infantry Division

#### DATE OF DEATH

12 July 2000

#### PLACE OF DEATH

Vancouver, British Columbia



Charles Cecil Ingersoll Merritt was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 10 November 1908.

In 1929, he graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, and later enrolled in the militia. When the Second World War began, Merritt was serving as an officer in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

In 1942, Merritt became the commanding officer of the South Saskatchewan Regiment (SSR). The SSR was one of the infantry battalions of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division that participated in the raid on the French port of Dieppe on 19 August 1942. The battalion landed on Green Beach immediately in front of Pourville, a village just to the west of Dieppe. In order to reach its objectives east of the village, the Canadians were obliged to cross a bridge over the River Scie, which flows through Pourville to the sea. The bridge and its approaches were swept by German artillery, machine gun, and mortar fire coming from the heights dominating the eastern bank of the Scie, which brought the progress of the SSR to a halt. At this point, Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt came forward and took charge, walking calmly across the bridge at least four times under a storm of fire to conduct parties of his men to the eastern side. He then organized and led uphill assaults on several of the concrete “pillboxes” and other enemy positions that looked down on the bridge and the village, and succeeded in clearing them.

Throughout the morning, Merritt energetically led his men, exposing himself recklessly to German fire. Although twice wounded, he organized the withdrawal of his battalion from the Pourville beaches and mounted a rearguard that ensured that the greater part of the SSR and the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada were re-embarked for England. Merritt and the men of the rearguard could not be brought off and were compelled to surrender. For his exemplary leadership and valour, Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Merritt died in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 12 July 2000.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

2 OCTOBER, 1942

For matchless gallantry and inspiring leadership whilst commanding his battalion during the Dieppe raid on the 19th August, 1942.

From the point of landing, his unit's advance had to be made across a bridge in Pourville which was swept by very heavy machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire: the first parties were mostly destroyed and the bridge thickly covered by their bodies. A daring lead was required; waving his helmet, Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt rushed forward shouting 'Come on over! There's nothing to worry about here.'

He thus personally led the survivors of at least four parties in turn across the bridge. Quickly organising these, he led them forward and when held by enemy pill-boxes he again headed rushes which succeeded in clearing them. In one case he himself destroyed the occupants of the post by throwing grenades into it. After

several of his runners became casualties, he himself kept contact with his different positions.

Although twice wounded Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt continued to direct the unit's operations with great vigour and determination and while organising the withdrawal he stalked a sniper with a Bren gun and silenced him. He then coolly gave orders for the departure and announced his intention to hold off and 'get even with' the enemy. When last seen he was collecting Bren and Tommy guns and preparing a defensive position which successfully covered the withdrawal from the beach.

Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt is now reported to be a Prisoner of War.

To this Commanding Officer's personal daring, the success of his unit's operations and the safe re-embarkation of a large portion of it were chiefly due.

*(London Gazette, no. 35729, 2 October 1942)*



TOP: VIEW FROM TOP OF CLIFF AT THE BEACH AT SCIE RIVER, WHERE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MERRITT WON HIS VICTORIA CROSS. DIEPPE, FRANCE, 2 SEPTEMBER 1944.

BOTTOM: CANADIAN WAR CORRESPONDENTS INTERVIEW LT.-COL. CECIL MERRITT, V.C., AT THE NO. 1 CANADIAN RECEPTION DEPOT FOR REPATRIATED PRISONERS OF WAR. LEFT TO RIGHT: J.F. SCOTT, PRO, ARMY; F. LOWE, CP; B. MUNRO THOMPSON; C. MERRITT.



# ANDREW CHARLES MYNARSKI



NAME

MYNARSKI, Andrew Charles

RANK

Pilot Officer

DATE OF BIRTH

14 October 1916

PLACE OF BIRTH

Winnipeg, Manitoba

ENLISTMENT DATE

1940

UNIT

No. 419 Squadron,  
Royal Canadian Air Force

DATE OF DEATH

13 June 1944

PLACE OF DEATH

Cambrai, France

Andrew Charles Mynarski was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on 14 October 1916. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1941.

On the night of 12 – 13 June 1944, Pilot Officer Mynarski was the mid-upper gunner in an Avro Lancaster bomber of No. 419 Squadron, RCAF, during an attack on the railway yards at Cambrai, France. When the aircraft was attacked by a German night fighter, both port engines failed, and fire broke out between the mid-upper and rear gun turrets, as well as in the port wing fuel tanks. Soon the flames grew to such an extent that the pilot ordered the aircraft abandoned.

As Mynarski left his turret and proceeded toward the escape hatch, he saw that the rear gunner, Flying Officer G.P. Brophy, was unable to get out of his turret, which could not be moved because of the failure of both the hydraulic and manual systems. At once, Mynarski made his way through the fire in an attempt to free Brophy. With his parachute and the clothing below his waist now on fire, Mynarski strained to move the turret and release Brophy, but to no avail. At this point, Brophy indicated clearly that there was no more to be done and that Mynarski should save himself. Reluctantly, Mynarski went back through the flames to the escape hatch and jumped, his parachute and clothing all on fire. After landing, he was eventually found by the French, but he died owing to the severity of his burns.

For his courageous and selfless attempt to save his crewmate, Pilot Officer Mynarski was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously. Miraculously, Flying Officer Brophy survived the crash of the stricken and abandoned Lancaster and, with the help of the French Resistance, was back in England in September.



CREW MEMBERS, LANCASTER MK X, KB-726 VR-A.  
FROM THE LEFT: PAT BROPHY (TAIL GUNNER), JIM  
KELLY (RADIO OPERATOR), ROY VIGARS (FLIGHT  
ENGINEER), ART DE BREYNE (PILOT), ANDREW  
MYNARSKI (MID-UPPER GUNNER), JACK FRIDAY  
(OPERATOR BOMB), BOB BODIE (NAVIGATOR).

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

11 OCTOBER, 1946

Pilot Officer Mynarski was the mid-upper gunner of a Lancaster aircraft, detailed to attack a target at Cambrai in France, on the night of 12th June, 1944. The aircraft was attacked from below and astern by an enemy fighter and ultimately came down in flames.

As an immediate result of the attack, both port engines failed. Fire broke out between the mid-upper turret and the rear turret, as well as in the port wing. The flames soon became fierce and the captain ordered the crew to abandon the aircraft.

Pilot Officer Mynarski left his turret and went towards the escape hatch. He then saw that the rear gunner was still in his turret and apparently unable to leave it. The turret was, in fact, immovable, since the hydraulic gear had been put out of action when the port engines failed, and the manual gear had been broken by the gunner in his attempts to escape.

Without hesitation, Pilot Officer Mynarski made his way through the flames in an endeavour to reach the rear turret and release the gunner. Whilst so doing, his parachute and his clothing, up to the waist, were set on fire. All his efforts to move the turret and free the gunner were in vain. Eventually the rear gunner clearly indicated to him that there was nothing

more he could do and that he should try to save his own life. Pilot Officer Mynarski reluctantly went back through the flames to the escape hatch. There, as a last gesture to the trapper gunner, he turned towards him, stood to attention in his flaming clothing and saluted, before he jumped out of the aircraft. Pilot Officer Mynarski's descent was seen by French people on the ground. Both his parachute and clothing were on fire. He was found eventually by the French, but was so severely burnt that he died from his injuries.

The rear gunner had a miraculous escape when the aircraft crashed. He subsequently testified that, had Pilot Officer Mynarski not attempted to save his comrade's life, he could have left the aircraft in safety and would, doubtless, have escaped death.

Pilot Officer Mynarski must have been fully aware that in trying to free the rear gunner he was almost certain to lose his own life. Despite this, with outstanding courage and complete disregard for his own safety, he went to the rescue. Willingly accepting the danger, Pilot Officer Mynarski lost his life by a most conspicuous act of heroism which called for valour of the highest order.

*(London Gazette, no. 37754, 11 October 1946)*



# JOHN ROBERT OSBORN



NAME

OSBORN, John Robert

RANK

Company Sergeant Major

DATE OF BIRTH

2 January 1899

PLACE OF BIRTH

Foulden, England

ENLISTMENT DATE

1939

UNIT

Winnipeg Grenadiers

DATE OF DEATH

19 December 1941

PLACE OF DEATH

Hong Kong

John Robert Osborn was born in Foulden, England, on 2 January 1899. During the First World War, he served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Osborn came to Canada in 1920. In 1933, he joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers, a unit of the Non-Permanent Active Militia. When the Second World War began in September 1939, the Grenadiers went on active service and were stationed for a time in Jamaica. In October 1941, at the request of the British government, the battalion was sent to reinforce the garrison in Hong Kong.

On 8 December 1941, units of the Japanese army moved against British defences in Hong Kong. By 18 December, three Japanese regiments had landed on the island. Very early on the morning of 19 December, "A" Company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers was ordered to clear the enemy out of a feature named Jardine's Lookout and then to advance on Mount Butler and recapture it. Soon after dawn, part of "A" Company, led by Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Osborn, mounted a bayonet charge and took the summit of Mount Butler. Three hours later, when three companies of Japanese troops counterattacked and forced his men down the western slope of the hill, Osborn calmly directed covering fire to keep the enemy at bay.

At length, after Osborn's party had rejoined the rest of "A" Company, the Japanese managed to surround the whole group. By mid-afternoon, having driven off two Japanese attacks and with ammunition running low and casualties mounting, the company commander, Major A.B. Gresham, decided to surrender and stepped out into the open with a white flag. He was immediately shot dead by the Japanese, who now began to throw grenades into "A" Company's position. CSM Osborn picked up several of the grenades and threw them back at the enemy. Finally, a grenade fell in a place where Osborn could not retrieve it in time. Shouting a warning as he shoved one man aside, he threw himself on the grenade, which exploded and killed him instantly.

When the story of Osborn's leadership and sacrifice became known after the defeat of Japan, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

2 APRIL, 1946

At Hong Kong on the morning of the 19th December, 1941, a Company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers to which Company-Sergeant-Major Osborn belonged, became divided during an attack on Mount Butler, a hill rising steeply above sea level. A part of the Company led by Company-Sergeant-Major Osborn captured the hill at the point of the bayonet and held it for three hours when, owing to the superior numbers of the enemy and to fire from an unprotected flank, the position became untenable. Company-Sergeant-Major Osborn and a small group covered the withdrawal and when their turn came to fall back Osborn, single-handed, engaged the enemy while the remainder successfully joined the Company. Company-Sergeant-Major Osborn had to run the gauntlet of heavy rifle and machine gun fire. With no consideration for his own safety he assisted and directed stragglers to the new Company

position, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire to cover their retirement. Wherever danger threatened he was there to encourage his men.

During the afternoon the Company was cut off from the Battalion and completely surrounded by the enemy who were able to approach to within grenade throwing distance of the slight depression which the Company were holding. Several enemy grenades were thrown which Company-Sergeant-Major Osborn picked up and threw back. The enemy threw a grenade which landed in a position where it was impossible to pick it up and return it in time. Shouting a warning to his comrades this gallant Warrant Officer threw himself on the grenade which exploded killing him instantly. His self-sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of many others.

Company-Sergeant-Major Osborn was an inspiring example to all throughout



MAJOR K. HENNINGER (CENTRE), A GERMAN ARMY SIGNALS OFFICER, SPEAKING ON A TELEPHONE LINK-UP BETWEEN CANADIAN AND GERMAN FORCES, WAGENINGEN, NETHERLANDS, 5 MAY 1945. SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN ROBERT OSBORN IS ON EXTREME RIGHT.

the defence which he assisted so magnificently in maintaining against an overwhelming enemy force for over eight and a half hours, and in his death he displayed the highest qualities of heroism and self-sacrifice.

*(London Gazette, no. 37517, 2 April 1946)*



# FREDERICK THORNTON PETERS



NAME

PETERS, Frederick Thornton

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

17 September 1889

PLACE OF BIRTH

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

ENLISTMENT DATE

1905

UNIT

Royal Navy

DATE OF DEATH

13 November 1942

PLACE OF DEATH

Near Plymouth Sound, Devon, England

**F**rederick Thornton Peters was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on 17 September 1889. His father, Frederick Peters, had been the attorney general and the first Liberal premier of the province. There, Peters was educated at St. Peter's private school. After the family moved to British Columbia when Peters was a young boy, he attended school in Victoria. From there, he continued his education at the Royal Naval School in England. He graduated as a midshipman and three years later received his commission as a sub-lieutenant.

During the First World War, Peters was decorated with the Distinguished Service Order, the first ever given to a Canadian, and the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry in action. Two of his brothers were killed in action: John Franckly Peters in April 1915 and Gerald Hamilton Peters in June 1916.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Peters rejoined the Royal Navy. He led one of two cutters in an offensive in the harbour of Oran during landings on the North African coast. After enduring fire from shore and from nearby ships, the cutter he was on sank in flames. Peters, wounded in the shoulder and blinded in one eye, was its only survivor. He and others were taken prisoner but were later liberated by American troops. For his attempt to force the boom defences in Oran's harbour, he earned the Victoria Cross.

After being freed, Peters was killed on his way to England when the plane he was in crashed. His name is included on the Naval Memorial at Portsmouth, England.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

14 MAY, 1943

Captain Peters was in the “suicide charge” by two little cutters at Oran. The “Walney” and “Hartland” were two ex-American coastguard cutters which were lost in a gallant attempt to force the boom defences in the harbour of Oran during the landings on the North African coast. Captain Peters led his force through the boom in the face of point-blank fire from shore batteries, destroyer and a cruiser – a feat which was described as one of the great episodes of naval history. The “Walney” reached the jetty disabled and ablaze, and went down with her colours flying. Blinded in one eye, Captain Peters was the only survivor of the seventeen men on the bridge of the

“Walney”. He was taken prisoner but was later released when Oran was captured. On being liberated from the gaol, he was carried through the streets where the citizens hailed him with flowers. He won the D.S.O. and D.S.C. in the last war. Distinguished Service Order (George V), *London Gazette* 30 March 1915, Distinguished Service Cross (George V), *London Gazette* 8 March 1918 and Bar *London Gazette* 11 July 1940. British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star with Bar (North Africa 1942-43) 1939-45 Medal, Distinguished Service Cross (USA).

*(London Gazette, 14 May 1943)*

HMS WALNEY





# ERNEST ALVIA SMITH



NAME

SMITH, Ernest Alvia

RANK

Private

DATE OF BIRTH

3 May 1914

PLACE OF BIRTH

New Westminster, British Columbia

ENLISTMENT DATE

March 1940

UNIT

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

DATE OF DEATH

3 August 2005

PLACE OF DEATH

Vancouver, British Columbia

**E**rnest Alvia “Smokey” Smith was born in New Westminster, British Columbia, on 3 May 1914. He was the only private soldier to earn the Victoria Cross in the Second World War. The action occurred in Savio, Italy, on 21 and 22 October 1944 during an attempt by a forward company of the Seaforth Highlanders to consolidate the bridgehead on the German side of the Savio River. The bridgehead was suddenly counterattacked by three German tanks, two self-propelled guns, and about 30 infantry. Despite heavy fire, Smith led his PIAT (anti-tank projector) group across an open field to a suitable defensive position. His men then found themselves face to face with one of the German tanks coming down the road, its machine guns blazing. Smith held his ground and, at a range of ten metres, fired the PIAT and disabled the tank. The group then moved out onto the roadway, firing tommy guns and forcing the enemy to withdraw in disarray.

Smith died in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 3 August 2005.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

20 DECEMBER, 1944

In Italy on the night of 21st/22nd October, 1944, a Canadian Infantry Brigade was ordered to establish a bridgehead across the Savio River.

The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada were selected as the spearhead of the attack and in weather most unfavourable to the operation they crossed the river and captured their objectives in spite of strong opposition from the enemy.

Torrential rain had caused the Savio River to rise six feet in five hours and as the soft vertical banks made it impossible to bridge the river no tanks or anti-tank guns could be taken across the raging stream to the support of the rifle companies.

As the right forward company was consolidating its objective it was suddenly counter-attacked by a troop of three Mark V Panther tanks supported by two self-propelled guns and about thirty infantry and the situation appeared almost hopeless.

Under heavy fire from the approaching enemy tanks, Private Smith, showing great initiative and inspiring leadership, led his Piat Group of two men across an

open field to a position from which the Piat could best be employed. Leaving one man on the weapon, Private Smith crossed the road with a companion, and obtained another Piat. Almost immediately an enemy tank came down the road firing its machine guns along the line of the ditches. Private Smith's comrade was wounded. At a range of thirty feet and having to expose himself to the full view of the enemy, Private Smith fired the Piat and hit the tank, putting it out of action. Ten German infantry immediately jumped off the back of the tank and charged him with Schmeissers and grenades. Without hesitation Private Smith moved out onto the road and with his Tommy gun at point blank range, killed four Germans and drove the remainder back. Almost immediately another tank opened fire and more enemy infantry closed in on Smith's position. Obtaining some abandoned Tommy gun magazines from a ditch, he steadfastly held his position, protecting his comrade and fighting the enemy with his Tommy gun until they finally gave up and withdrew in disorder.

One tank and both self-propelled guns had been destroyed by this time, but yet another tank swept the area with fire from a longer range. Private Smith, still showing utter contempt for enemy fire, helped his wounded friend to cover and obtained medical aid for him behind a nearby building. He then returned to his position beside the road to await the possibility of a further enemy attack.

No further immediate attack developed, and as a result the battalion was able to consolidate the bridgehead position so vital to the success of the whole operation, which led to the eventual capture of San Giorgio Di Cesena and a further advance to the Ronco River.

Thus, by the dogged determination, outstanding devotion to duty and superb gallantry of this private soldier, his comrades were so inspired that the bridgehead was held firm against all enemy attacks, pending the arrival of tanks and anti-tank guns some hours later.

*(London Gazette, no. 36849, 20 December 1944)*



# FREDERICK ALBERT TILSTON



NAME  
TILSTON, Frederick Albert

RANK  
Major

DATE OF BIRTH  
11 June 1906

PLACE OF BIRTH  
Toronto, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE  
1940

UNIT  
Essex Scottish Regiment

DATE OF DEATH  
23 September 1992

PLACE OF DEATH  
Toronto, Ontario

**F**rederick Albert Tilston was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 11 June 1906. He served with the Essex Scottish Regiment in the Second World War. Before he was awarded the Victoria Cross, Tilston had been wounded twice: the first time while in training, and the second time by a land mine during the fighting around Falaise, France, in the summer of 1944.

In late February and early March 1945, the 1st Canadian Army was striving to eliminate enemy resistance in the Hochwald Forest, Germany's last defensive position on the west bank of the Rhine River. In fact, the defences in the Hochwald protected a vital escape route for German ground forces seeking to withdraw across the river. Early in the morning on 1 March 1945, supported by artillery fire and a troop of tanks from the Sherbrooke Fusiliers, the Essex Scottish Regiment attacked the northern part of the forest. On the left flank of the attack, Major Tilston led his "C" Company across 500 metres of open ground and through three metres of barbed wire to the first line of enemy trenches at the edge of the woods. The advance was made in the face of intense gunfire and without the support of tanks because of the soft ground. Although wounded in the head, Tilston was first into the German trenches, using a hand grenade to silence a machine gun that was delaying the progress of one of his platoons. He continued with his company to assault and clear the second line of the enemy's defences, suffering a second wound in the thigh. In the course of occupying this second objective, Major Tilston's men overran the headquarters positions of two companies of the German parachute troops defending the forest. However, before the remnants of "C" Company could consolidate their gains, the Germans counterattacked, heavily supported by machine guns and mortars. Through heavy enemy fire, Tilston calmly moved in the open from platoon to platoon to organize the defence. Six more times, he braved the intense fire to carry badly needed ammunition and grenades to his men from a neighbouring Essex company.

By now, Tilson was suffering from more serious wounds to his legs, but he refused medical aid until he was able to brief his one remaining officer on the plan of defence and to impress upon him the absolute necessity of holding the position. Only when that was done did he relinquish command. The position was held, and for his valour and exemplary leadership in this action, Major Tilston earned the Victoria Cross.

Tilston died in Toronto on 23 September 1992.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

22 MAY, 1945

The 2nd Canadian Division had been given the task of breaking through the strongly fortified Hochwald Forest defence line which covered Xanten the last German bastion West of the Rhine protecting the vital Wesel Bridge escape route.

The Essex Scottish Regiment was ordered to breach the defence line North-east of Udem and to clear the Northern half of the forest, through which the balance of the Brigade would pass.

At 0715 hours on 1st March, 1945, the attack was launched but due to the softness of the ground it was found impossible to support the attack by tanks as had been planned.

Across approximately 500 yards of flat open country, in face of intense enemy fire, Major Tilston personally led his Company in the attack, keeping dangerously close to our own bursting shells in order to get the maximum cover from the barrage. Though wounded in the head he continued to lead his men forward, through a belt of wire ten feet in depth to the enemy trenches shouting orders and encouragement and using his Sten gun with great effect. When the platoon on the left came under heavy fire from an enemy machine gun post he dashed forward personally and silenced it with a grenade; he was first to reach the

enemy position and took the first prisoner.

Determined to maintain the momentum of the attack he ordered the reserve platoon to mop up these positions and with outstanding gallantry, pressed on with his main force to the second line of enemy defences which were on the edge of the woods.

As he approached the woods he was severely wounded in the hip and fell to the ground. Shouting to his men to carry on without him and urging them to get into the wood, he struggled to his feet and re-joined them as they reached the trenches on their objective. Here an elaborate system of underground dugouts and trenches was manned in considerable strength and vicious hand-to-hand fighting followed. Despite his wounds, Major Tilston's unyielding will to close with the enemy was a magnificent inspiration to his men as he led them in, systematically clearing the trenches of the fiercely resisting enemy. In this fighting two German Company Headquarters were overrun and many casualties were inflicted on the fanatical defenders.

Such had been the grimness of the fighting and so savage the enemy resistance that the Company was now reduced to only 26 men, one quarter of its original

strength. Before consolidation could be completed the enemy counter-attacked repeatedly, supported by a hail or [sic] mortar and machine gun fire from the open flank. Major Tilston moved in the open from platoon to platoon quickly organising their defence and directing fire against the advancing enemy. The enemy attacks penetrated so close to the positions that grenades were thrown into the trenches held by his troops, but this officer by personal contact, unshakeable confidence and unquenchable enthusiasm so inspired his men that they held firm against great odds.

When the supply of ammunition became a serious problem he repeatedly crossed the bullet swept ground to the Company on his right flank to carry grenades, rifle and Bren ammunition to his troops and replace a damaged wireless set to re-establish communications with Battalion Headquarters. He made at least six of these hazardous trips, each time crossing a road which was dominated by intense fire from numerous, well-sited enemy machine gun posts.

On his last trip he was wounded for the third time, this time in the leg. He was found in a shell crater beside the road. Although very seriously wounded and barely conscious, he would not submit to



GERMAN ANTI-TANK GUN POSITION CAPTURED BY THE ACTION DURING WHICH MAJOR F.A. TILSTON WON THE VICTORIA CROSS, HOCHWALD, GERMANY, 1 MARCH 1945.

medical attention until he had given complete instructions as to the defence plan, had emphasised the absolute necessity of holding the position, and had ordered his one remaining officer to take over.

By his calm courage, gallant conduct and total disregard for his own safety, he fired his men with grim determination and their firm stand enabled the Regiment to accomplish its object of furnishing the Brigade with a solid base through which to launch further successful attacks to clear the forest, thus enabling the Division to accomplish its task.

*(London Gazette, no. 37086, 22 May 1945)*



# FREDERICK GEORGE TOPHAM



NAME

TOPHAM, Frederick George

RANK

Corporal

DATE OF BIRTH

10 August 1917

PLACE OF BIRTH

Toronto, Ontario

ENLISTMENT DATE

August 1942

UNIT

1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

DATE OF DEATH

31 May 1974

PLACE OF DEATH

Toronto, Ontario

**F**rederick George Topham was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 10 August 1917. In March 1945, Corporal Topham was serving as a medical orderly in the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. At that time, the battalion was part of the 3rd Parachute Brigade of the British Army's 6th Airborne Division.

On the morning of 24 March 1945, parachute and glider-borne troops of the 6th Airborne Division landed on the east bank of the Rhine River, not far from the city of Wesel, Germany. These landings were carried out in support of assault operations begun the night before by the 1st Canadian and 2nd British armies to cross to the east bank of the river. After the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion landed just north of Diersfordt Wood, Corporal Topham heard a cry for help from a wounded man who was in the open. Two medical orderlies who went out in succession to treat the injured man were killed. Immediately afterward and on his own initiative, Topham went forward through intense German fire to assist the casualty. As he treated the man, Topham was himself shot through the nose, but he continued to give first aid despite the severe bleeding and pain of his own injury. He was then able to carry the wounded man to shelter through continuous fire.

Refusing treatment for his wound, Corporal Topham continued to assist the wounded for two more hours, by which time all casualties had been evacuated to safety. Although he finally consented to have his nose dressed, he refused to be evacuated with the other wounded. Later, alone and again under enemy fire, Topham rescued three soldiers from a burning machine gun carrier that threatened to explode. He brought them to safety and arranged for the evacuation of the two men who survived. For his courageous and selfless devotion to his comrades, Corporal Topham was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Topham died in Toronto on 31 May 1974.

# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

3 AUGUST, 1945

On 24th March 1945, Corporal Topham, a medical orderly, parachuted with his Battalion on to a strongly defended area east of the Rhine. At about 1100 hours, whilst treating casualties sustained in the drop, a cry for help came from a wounded man in the open. Two medical orderlies from a field ambulance went out to this man in succession but both were killed as they knelt beside the casualty.

Without hesitation and on his own initiative, Corporal Topham went forward through intense fire to replace the orderlies who had been killed before his eyes. As he worked on the wounded man, he was himself shot through the nose. In spite of severe bleeding and intense pain, he never faltered in his task. Having completed immediate first aid, he carried the wounded man steadily and slowly back through continuous fire to the shelter of a wood.

During the next two hours Corporal Topham refused all offers of medical help for his own wound. He worked most devotedly throughout this period to bring in wounded, showing complete disregard for the heavy and accurate enemy fire. It was only when all casualties had been cleared that he consented to his own wound being treated.

His immediate evacuation was ordered, but he interceded so earnestly on his own behalf that he was eventually allowed to return to duty.

On his way back to his company he came across a carrier, which had received a direct hit. Enemy mortar bombs were still dropping around, the carrier itself was burning fiercely and its own mortar ammunition was exploding. An experienced officer on the spot had warned all not to approach the carrier.

Corporal Topham, however, immediately went out alone in spite of the blasting ammunition and enemy fire, and rescued the three occupants of the carrier. He brought these men back across the open and, although one died almost immediately afterwards, he arranged for the evacuation of the other two, who undoubtedly owe their lives to him.

This N.C.O. showed sustained gallantry of the highest order. For six hours, most of the time in great pain, he performed a series of acts of outstanding bravery and his magnificent and selfless courage inspired all those who witnessed it.

*(London Gazette, no. 37205, 3 August 1945)*



CROSSING THE RHINE 24 MARCH 1945: C-47 TRANSPORT PLANES RELEASE HUNDREDS OF PARATROOPS AND THEIR SUPPLIES OVER THE REES-WESEL AREA TO THE EAST OF THE RHINE. THIS WAS THE GREATEST AIRBORNE OPERATION OF THE WAR. SOME 40,000 PARATROOPS WERE DROPPED BY 1,500 TROOP-CARRYING PLANES AND GLIDERS.



# PAUL TRIQUET



NAME

TRIQUET, Paul

RANK

Captain

DATE OF BIRTH

2 April 1910

PLACE OF BIRTH

Cabano, Quebec

ENLISTMENT DATE

1927

UNIT

Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment

DATE OF DEATH

4 August 1980

PLACE OF DEATH

Quebec City, Quebec

Paul Triquet was born in Cabano, Quebec, on 2 April 1910. At the age of 17, he joined the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment (nicknamed the “Van Doos”). In late 1943, Captain Triquet was a company commander with the regiment’s battalion, which was serving in Italy with the Canadian Army’s 1st Infantry Division.

On 13 December 1943, plans were made by the 1st Division to get around the western end of the German defences running inland from the Adriatic Sea just south of the small coastal city of Ortona. By “turning” the enemy line, the 1st Division hoped to open the way to Ortona, its objective, and to capture the city. The key to the success of the plan was an advance by the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment northeastward along the road to Ortona in order to seize an important road junction. At 10:30 on the morning of 14 December, “C” and “D” companies of the “Van Doos,” supported by tanks from “C” Squadron of the Ontario Regiment, began moving up both sides of the road. The force had already met and destroyed two German tanks. On the left, about halfway to the hamlet of Casa Berardi, Captain Triquet’s “C” Company began to encounter fierce resistance from enemy machine guns and infantry, which were sheltered in damaged buildings and in terrain favourable to the defenders, backed up by tanks and self-propelled guns. On the right, “D” Company became lost and took no further part in the action that day. “C” Company and the Ontario tanks proceeded to fight their way through the opposition, knocking out three more tanks and eliminating the Germans’ defensive positions. At this stage, the company had been reduced to 50 men and one officer – Triquet. Although ammunition was running low, Triquet, his men, and their supporting tanks persevered in the attack, capturing Casa Berardi late in the afternoon and driving on nearly to the crossroads.

At this point, the survivors, now only 15 strong with four tanks, were stopped by mortar fire and retired to Casa Berardi to prepare for counterattacks. As darkness fell, “B” Company of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> arrived to reinforce Triquet and his men, and by the early hours of 15 December, the battalion’s two remaining companies had reached Casa Berardi. The western flank of the German line had been turned. For his courageous and determined leadership, which resulted in the capture and retention of Casa Berardi, Captain Triquet received the Victoria Cross.

Triquet died in Quebec City, Quebec, on 4 August 1980.



# The London Gazette,

Published by Authority.

6 MARCH, 1944

For determined leadership and example.

The capture of the key road junction on the main Ortona-Orsogna lateral was entirely dependent on securing the hamlet of Casa Berardi. Both this and a gully in front of it had been turned by the Germans into formidable strong points defended by infantry and tanks.

On 14th December, 1943, Captain Triquet's company of the Royal 22e Regiment with the support of a squadron of a Canadian Armoured Regiment was given the task of crossing the gully and securing Casa Berardi. Difficulties were encountered from the outset. The gully was held in strength and on approaching it the force came under extremely heavy fire from machine guns and mortars. All the company officers and 50 per cent of the men were killed or wounded. Showing superb contempt for the enemy Captain Triquet went round reorganizing the remainder and encouraging them with the words 'Never mind them, they can't shoot'. Finally when enemy infiltration was observed on all sides shouting 'There are enemy in front of us, behind us and on our flanks, there is only one safe place – that is on the objective' he dashed forward and with his men following him, broke



OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL 22<sup>e</sup> RÉGIMENT, SAN LEONARDO DI ORTONA, ITALY, 26 JANUARY 1944. MAJOR PAUL TRIQUET, SECOND FROM THE LEFT.

through the enemy resistance. In this action four tanks were destroyed and several enemy machine gun posts silenced.

Against the most bitter and determined defence and under heavy fire Captain Triquet and his company, in close co-operation with the tanks forced their way on until a position was reached on the outskirts of Casa Berardi. By this time

the strength of the company was reduced to 2 sergeants and 15 men. In expectation of a counter-attack Captain Triquet at once set about organizing his handful of men into a defensive perimeter around the remaining tanks and passed the 'mot d'ordre. Ils ne passeront pas'.

A fierce German counter-attack supported by tanks developed almost

immediately. Captain Triquet, ignoring the heavy fire, was everywhere encouraging his men and directing the defence and by using whatever weapons were to hand personally accounted for several of the enemy. This and subsequent attacks were beaten off with heavy losses and Captain Triquet and his small force held out against overwhelming odds until the remainder of the battalion took Casa Berardi and relieved them the next day.

Throughout the whole of this engagement Captain Triquet showed the most magnificent courage and cheerfulness under heavy fire. Wherever the action was hottest he was to be seen shouting encouragement to his men and organizing the defence. His utter disregard of danger, his cheerfulness and tireless devotion to duty were a constant source of inspiration to them. His tactical skill and superb leadership enabled them, although reduced by casualties to a mere handful, to continue their advance against bitter resistance and to hold their gains against determined counter-attacks. It was due to him that Casa Berardi was captured and the way opened for the attack on the vital road junction.

*(London Gazette, no. 36408, 6 March 1944)*



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